

Hafa Adai!

WSR will get \$2.07M FEMA grant to repair Yutu damage. **PAGE 3**
\$500K available to US territories to replace diesel engines. **PAGE 5**

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Atalig to CCC: No

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig disclosed Friday that the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will assist the Commonwealth Casino Commission to finance their operations, but using other sources of funding and not from

» **ARPA fund will be not be used to aid CCC operation; instead, \$2M taken from CCC for COVID-19 response will be returned**

the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Speaking at a radio news briefing, Atalig said that using the CNMI's ARPA funds to fund CCC's operation is not a high priority of the ad-

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TORRES REMINDS LAWMAKERS: 'CNMI still in pandemic, world still on lockdown'



Torres

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI is still in a pandemic and the whole world is still basically on lockdown.

That appears simple enough to understand, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who said he does not understand why some Democratic repre-

See **CNMI** on **Page 4**

'Modified quarantine only for those vaccinated in CNMI'

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 3, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	19,369
Fully Vaccinated:	16,743
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,207
Fully Vaccinated:	2,319
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	54

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,964	25	7,989
Recovered	7,739	19	7,758
Active	70	25	95
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	154,903		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	168	0	168
Traced via Travel Screening	132	0	132
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	47		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

Only those who have been fully vaccinated in the CNMI are allowed to avail of the modified quarantine, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, because it'll be easy to validate their vaccination cards.

Muña said in an interview that the system they have in place can only verify those who are fully vaccinated in the CNMI. That qualifies them to be categorized as belonging to Group A, which refers

See **MODIFIED** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

IN ADDITION TO OCEAN TEMPERATURE Study: Light also plays role in coral bleaching



Staghorn corals in the reef flat off Hagåtña appear bleached as a response to stress from environmental changes. As one of Guam's dominant reef-builders whose habitat experiences temperatures up to 97 degrees Fahrenheit, this species was used in a University of Guam study published in February that found that shade can mitigate the effects of heat stress on corals.

GUAM EPSCOR PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

A study by University of Guam researchers has found that shade can mitigate the effects of heat stress on corals. The study, which was funded by the university's National

Science Foundation EPSCoR grant, was published in February in the peer-reviewed *Marine Biology Research* journal. "We wanted to see what role light has in coral bleaching,"

said UOG assistant professor Bastian Bentlage, the supervisor and co-author of the study. "Usually, people talk about temperature as a cause for bleaching, but we show

that both light and temperature work together."

Previous UOG research led by Laurie J. Raymundo found that more than one-third of

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All Guam Foody's Stores and Shell Shops have phased out disposable bags entirely.

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LIFE & STYLE

There's a project to build a high-tech, lightweight stage inside the Roman Colosseum.

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Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety officer DJ Naru, bottom, second from right to left, poses with Tasi to Table board members and TTT Rota's student members at the club's first meeting at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local

Tasi to Table continues expansion, launched TTT Rota last Saturday

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tasi to Table Inc. launched TTT Rota last Saturday and held the club's first meeting at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room, to expand further the program's goal to instill the love of fishing among the youth and give high schoolers elective hours that go toward graduation.

Guest speakers from the Department of Public Safety, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council did presentations to the club's new members from the Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School.

DPS did a presentation on boating safety and the many needs and uses of emergency flares while MINA presented on the environmental impact that trash has on the ocean, similar to their presentation at TTT Tinian's first meeting.

WesPac coordinator Floyd Masga presented to the students the council's many career-building opportunities in fishery management, and also spoke about the council's summer high school classes and scholarship programs for those seeking higher education. "TTT has proven over and over their passion towards educating the youth as well as whole community. ... It was an honor to be a part of TTT Rota's presentation," said Masga.

TTT Rota will meet again at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room on May 15 from 9am to 1pm. The Rota branch was made possible through Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the Department of Lands & Natural Resources, the Mayor's Office of Rota, the Rota Municipal Council, and TTT's various private-sector and non-government supporters.



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Tanapag property developer wants HKPA suit dismissed

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

American Sinopan LLC has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the complaints filed by H.K. Pangelinan & Associates LLC, which is suing the property developer for alleged breaches of contract and unpaid services amounting to \$421,800.

In the motion for dismissal that lawyer Jordan C. Sundell filed yesterday in court on behalf of American Sinopan LLC, it said that American Sinopan's alleged breaches of contracts that has resulted in American Sinopan supposedly owing HKPA almost \$422,000 should be dismissed since HKPA did not attach or refer to the relevant contracts in their complaint and did not provide ample proof that they held up their end of the contracts. Specifically, the motion says HKPA "did not attach the relevant contract or incorporate the relevant

provisions by reference" and did not "present specific facts showing that HKPA complied with the contracts and was thus entitled to payment," so the complaint should be dismissed.

HKPA, an architectural and engineering firm, filed the complaint against American Sinopan last April 9 in federal court, citing multiple breaches of contract, saying it owes \$421,800 for unpaid services. The original court documents named Imperial Pacific Real Estate and Hotel Management Company Limited as the sole member of American Sinopan.

In HKPA's court action, it says that HKPA and American Sinopan had inked two contracts, where HKPA was to provide American Sinopan with "civil engineering, design, drawings, and related permitting services" for the property developer's Saipan Garden Resort Development project in Tanapag and its Heaven II Development project in Savanna.

The William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa will get \$2.07 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repair

some of the damage it sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP)

WSR will get \$2.07M FEMA grant to repair Yutu damage

Sablan stated in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend

that FEMA announced on Tuesday a \$2,078,589 grant for

WSR that will be used to bring nine buildings, recreational facilities, covered walkways, and exterior components to pre-disaster conditions, with approved hazard mitigation measures. He said the award covers 90% of the total project cost of \$2,309,541.

"FEMA has to date awarded more than \$53 million to the Northern Marianas Public School System for Yutu repairs and rebuilding," Sablan said.

Last October, the Board of Education approved the design of the new WSR auditorium/cafeeteria project, which FEMA is funding for

\$1,798,938.

BOE said FEMA also gave \$2,776,578 for WSR's Building C, which was severely damaged due to Yutu's fury. What reportedly remains of the existing Building C is only the concrete floor slab and foundation.

Last month, the Torres-Palacios administration announced that FEMA has approved an \$88.73-million Community Disaster Loan that will settle the CNMI's outstanding obligations associated with Yutu's devastation in the Commonwealth. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*

Four get highest BIBA Healthy Restaurant ratings

The Environmental Health Disease Prevention gave its highest rating of A+ to four restaurant establishments on Saipan last March for complying with the mandates and requirements of the BIBA Healthy Restaurant Program.

The four establishments are Everest Restaurant in Garapan, the Caravan Restaurant in Garapan, both Shirley's Restaurant and Coffee Shop in Garapan and Susupe, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. cafeteria on Navy Hill.

This means they met all seven guidelines under the program and obtained scores between 90 and 100.

Four other restaurants—Salty's Bar and Grill in Garapan, Coffee Shop in Dandan, Rendezvous Restaurant in Chalan Lau Lau, and Paris Croissant Bakery in Garapan—obtained a rating of "C." This means at least two criteria of the program were met, obtaining scores between 70 and 79.

No restaurant obtained a score of 69 or less, which would have meant their temporary closure.

The BIBA Healthy Restaurant Program Inspection Grading Scale is as follows: A+: All guidelines met (#1-7); A: At least any 4 of the 7 guidelines are met; B: At least #1, #2, and #3 are met; and C: At least #2 and #3 are met.

CHCC, in partnership with the CNMI Nutrition Council, manages the Biba Healthy Restaurant Program that aims to increase the availability

of clearly marked, nutritious food in local restaurants. The program's mission is to make the healthy choice the easy choice at CNMI restaurants.

The Biba Healthy Restaurant Program certifies restaurants that are committed to:

- Include more fruit and vegetables, whole grains, and high-fiber foods

- Use more locally-grown or produced foods

- Emphasize whole and fresh ingredients, prepared with less sodium and sugar, and fewer processed and pre-packaged items

- Prepare foods with healthy fats, less saturated fat and minimal trans fats

- Use lean sources of protein
- Provide healthy portion sizes (small to moderate)

In order to enhance these goals and further emphasize the importance of nutrition in our community, the BIBA program has partnered with EHDP to incorporate BIBA inspections into regular sanitation inspections. This initiative will assist in promoting a healthier environment, including reducing secondhand smoke exposure. In addition, the availability of nutrition information will enable the community to choose healthier options. The inspections follow the regular sanitation inspection schedule.

The BIBA Healthy Restaurant Program is able to work toward BIBA certification with interested CNMI restaurants. Call (670) 236-8719 or send an email to bibamenu@gmail.com to inquire about the program

and request for an application.

Inspection criteria

1. No high-sodium condiments and sweeteners on the table including soy sauce, salt shakers, sugar packets, and powdered creamer (available upon request).

2. Provide a 100% smoke-free environment, including within 25 feet of the entrance. No obvious signs of smoking near the entrance, like ash-

trays, cigarette litter, etc.

3. No smoking signs are posted in a clearly visible area at the entrance and throughout the establishment.

4. BIBA posters and other materials are posted and clearly visible in the restaurant.

5. BIBA items are clearly marked with the logo on the menu.

6. BIBA factsheet about project standards is available to customers upon request.

7. Data on number of BIBA menu items purchased provided quarterly to CHCC (PR)



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 Mileage: 12,291, STOCK #: SP21P0057
 Mileage: 12,628, STOCK #: SP21P0058
 Mileage: 14,153, STOCK #: SP21P0061
 Mileage: 13,323, STOCK #: SP21P0055
 Mileage: 11,911, STOCK #: SP21P0060
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CNMI Government

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-004-21
BIDS SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 11, 2021, TIME: 2:00 P.M.
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THE BID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES THE EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATION IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING MAY 4TH, 2021 AT THE CPA ADMIN OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL BUILDING.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THE BIDS TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-21". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 440-50-1020, 440-50-1015, & 440-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STUDY

From Page 1

all coral reefs in Guam were killed from 2013 to 2017 over the course of multiple bleaching events. Coral bleaching is the process in which corals stressed by environmental changes expel the essential symbiotic algae that live in their tissues, causing them to turn white and often die.

This latest study examined the resilience of staghorn corals (*Acropora cf. pulchra*) in heightened seawater temperatures. This species of coral is one of Guam's dominant reef-builders, and its habitats experience temperatures up to 97 degrees Fahrenheit during the hottest months of the year, leaving it vulnerable to bleaching episodes and population decline.

A team of researchers—including lead author Justin T. Berg, a UOG graduate student studying biology; Charlotte M. David, an undergraduate student from the University of Plymouth (England), and Melissa Gabriel, a UOG graduate student studying environmental science—took coral samples from the Hagåtña reef flat and examined their health in the UOG Marine Laboratory



A shade cloth in the University of Guam Marine Laboratory partially blocks light for staghorn coral samples that were exposed to elevated seawater temperatures. Researchers assessed their recovery and found that shaded corals recover more quickly from heat stress than corals with no shade.

GUAM EPSCOR PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

under normal and elevated temperatures.

"One group was subjected to consistent baseline temperatures observed on Guam's reef flats," Bentlage said, "and another was set to temperatures that are projected to become the new normal over the next couple of decades."

The researchers found that the corals took three weeks to recover from a week-long heat stress event. The experiment was then replicated to

see how the corals would react if they were given shade while subjected to warmer temperatures.

"We found that when we put the shading over coral with increased seawater temperatures, it greatly increased photosynthetic yield of the symbiotic algae. Shade made a huge difference for coral health when you have high temperatures," Berg said.

Implications for reef management

unsure exactly what projects CCC employees are working on, since the casino is not open. One of the ideas being considered is for CCC's staff to help with the enforcement and audit projects of the Division of Revenue and Taxation. Atalig said he is actually in communication with CCC about coming up with a memorandum of understanding on this. He assured that CCC staff will get paid so they can also help Finance.

At the CCC board's monthly meeting last April 22, CCC acting executive director Vicente B. Babauta disclosed

Shading is a practice already used in coral nurseries, Bentlage said, but it may not be practical to shade whole reefs in the ocean. Future studies can look into practical ways to reduce the impact of light on corals, particularly as they recover from periods of elevated temperatures.

"We saw the corals recover rather slowly," Berg said. "The length of recovery indicates that corals are vulnerable during this time and management efforts may be particularly

that the commission sent Torres a letter last March 30 that conveyed their financial challenges and asks for Torres' help to finance their personnel and operation cost using ARPA money.

Babauta said the commission received the governor's budget proposal for fiscal year 2022 for the ARPA Volume IV submission to the Legislature, in which the proposed total expenditure request for fiscal year 2022 for the commission is \$1,089.

Babauta said they have 39 full-time employees, including their lawyer.

protocols entering the CNMI last April 27. These are the following:

- Group A: Travelers fully vaccinated in the CNMI;

- Group B1: Critical essential workers approved by the CNMI health official;

- Group B2: Essential workers approved by the CNMI health official who have proof of vaccination;

- Group B3: Essential workers that are approved by the CNMI health official who are not vaccinated or do not have proof of vaccination;

- Group C: Travelers from a Level 1 jurisdiction according to CDC COVID-19 travel;

- Group D: Travelers who do not qualify for Group A, B1, B2, B3, or C (Standard quarantine at designated government quarantine facility; will be tested on fifth day)

necessary during this period to reduce coral mortality."

Berg said the new knowledge may also help inform the best locations to successfully outplant corals.

"For example, slightly turbid waters could provide some

shading to corals, making them less likely to bleach during periods of elevated sea surface temperatures," Berg said.

The study can be read in its entirety at <https://doi.org/10.1080/17451000.2021.1875245>. (UOG)



University of Guam graduate biology student Justin Berg holds a fragment of *Acropora cf. pulchra*, the species of staghorn coral that was used in an experiment about the impact of shading on corals recovering from heat stress.

GUAM EPSCOR PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

CNMI

From Page 1

sentatives are concerned about his year-long state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres said he wants to say "as politely as he can" that he does these monthly declarations because the CNMI is still in a pandemic and he believes that everyone in the CNMI understands that "we're still in pandemic."

"Unless things changed yesterday or last week, we still don't have tourism coming in. The whole world is still basically on lockdown," he pointed out in response to Rep. Sheila Babauta's (D-Saipan) concern about the yearlong state of emergency.

The governor said that, although there's some movements with tourism, the CNMI is still in a pandemic. He said this state of emergency allows Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to do what he needs to do to work with governor's authorized representative Patrick Guerrero to work with the COVID-19 Task Force to make sure that people in the CNMI continue to be safe.

"We've been doing this since January, February [in 2020]. It is the reason why we're safe," said Torres, adding that he does not understand Babauta's concerns.

Torres reiterated his appeal to the Legislature to come up instead with revenue-generating bills to help address unemployment.

"What can they do as a Legislature to help with the unemployment? Come up with creative approach. How can they help farmers? How can they help fishers? The ranchers?" he said.

Torres said he will continue

to do what he needs to do to protect the community 100% against COVID-19. "So again we need to move forward. And I hope that they can exhaust their time and their effort in bringing back normalcy," he said.

As for Rep. Tina Sablan's (D-Saipan) concern about the constitutionality of the emergency declaration, Torres again referred back to the statement that the CNMI is in a pandemic. "We haven't seen any of this pandemic in our life before. What's their concern? What constitutionality?" Torres asked.

The governor said his executive orders and the approaches that they've been doing in protect the Commonwealth since Day 1 are guided by Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

"Where were they when this pandemic started and we were giving our undivided attention and decision to protecting 100% of our people here?" he asked.

The governor said the 100% effort that they made back in January 2020 in coming up with decisions came from experts that were brought in through the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. He said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña has been there, along with COVID-19 Task Force chief Warren Villagomez, governor's authorized representative Patrick Guerrero, and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

"We did everything we can so we continue to do what we need to do to protect our Commonwealth," said Torres as he appealed to lawmakers to exhaust their energies in coming up with new ideas to protect and help the community. "That's where I stand and I'll continue to do what I need to do to safeguard our community," the governor said.

ATALIG

From Page 1

ministration.

"We are in discussions on how to assist the CCC with other sources of funds," said Atalig in response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comments about CCC's appeal to the Torres administration to finance CCC's personnel and operation cost in the amount of \$3.19 million using ARPA funding.

Atalig revealed that he did borrow \$2 million from CCC early last year to help with the

COVID-19 response and mitigation plans. "I did promise that I would get those funds back to them," he said, adding that the amount should be sufficient for CCC's operations, considering that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino is not in operation, which means CCC shouldn't need full funding.

Atalig said they will make sure that CCC employees are paid. "But we also do need to focus on their priorities right now, knowing that there is no casino operating at the moment," he said, adding he is

middle of the day to ask if a person is fully vaccinated and is certain that they are vaccinated, then they can work with them with quarantine protocols but, as for now, the modified quarantine is strictly for returning residents who are vaccinated in the CNMI.

"So, when we're saying Guam only, [it's] because we actually had a conversation with them about that because they are trying to do the same thing, but once there's a system in place that that can make it happen, [we're] absolutely open to [other jurisdictions]," said Muña. "It is about information system that we can access and right now the only information system about vaccination that we can access are the ones that were vaccinated here in the CNMI. So even if you're not

a resident, and you got your vaccination here, we will be able to allow you to quarantine at home, basically under Group A."

Muña said they are working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to see if there's a shared information system that they can access.

"If that's not possible, then what we can do with the separate jurisdiction...it could be, for example, having a point of contact there and a point of contact here [to verify information]. That could be the other option," said Muña.

As the CNMI finished off the first week of its modified quarantine, Muña says it went as expected. She said there was an average of five to 10 people per flight who were eligible for Group A.

CHCC updated its traveler

MODIFIED

From Page 1

to people who are eligible to quarantine at home.

She added, though, that they are currently working with Guam to put in place a system where the CNMI can verify vaccination cards from Guam. According to Muña, Guam is also open to working with the CNMI in validating its vaccination cards and wants the same system in place where they can also validate CNMI vaccination cards.

As for other jurisdictions, Muña said there are too many phone numbers to call, and they wouldn't know if the verification will be valid since "the validation has to be certain." Muña said if CHCC can call another jurisdiction in the

\$500K available to US territories to replace diesel engines

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced the availability of grant funding available to U.S. territory and tribal governments, to implement projects aimed at reducing emissions from the nation's existing fleet of older diesel engines.

Older diesel engines emit large amounts of NOx and PM2.5, which contribute to serious public health problems, including asthma, lung disease and various other cardiac and respiratory diseases.

"Far too often, people living on tribal lands and insu-

lar areas are overburdened by pollution from aging vehicles and engines," said EPA acting assistant administrator for Air and Radiation Joseph Goffman. "These grants target the specific needs of tribes and insular areas to update their fleets with cleaner equipment that will reduce harmful diesel exhaust in their communities."

A total of \$4.5 million will be made available to tribal governments, or intertribal consortia, and Alaska Native villages; and \$500,000 will be made available to insular area governments including the U.S. Virgin Islands,

Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI. EPA anticipates awarding five to 10 cooperative agreements to tribal governments, intertribal consortia, or Alaska Native villages; and two to four cooperative agreements to insular area governments. Matching funds are not required for eligibility.

Nearly 10 million legacy diesel engines are in use in the United States. Problems that result from these engines include thousands of premature deaths, millions of lost workdays, and numerous other negative health impacts every year. The Diesel Emis-

sions Reduction Act program prioritizes projects in areas that face the most challenging air quality issues, especially those that benefit underserved communities or populations that have faced or are facing environmental health or environmental justice disparities.

Since the inaugural year of funding for DERA in 2008, EPA has awarded over \$830 million on 850 grant projects and 450 rebate projects to reduce diesel emissions nationwide. Many of these projects funded cleaner engines that operate in overburdened communities whose residents suf-

fer from higher-than-average instances of asthma, heart, and lung disease.

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov to be considered for funding. Although funding for both tribes and insular areas is being announced under this single RFA, the applications will be reviewed separately. Three informational webinars to accommodate diverse time zones will take place on May 12, May 18, and May 20, 2021, for interested applicants. EPA anticipates sending notification of awards in August 2021. **(PR)**

Senator seeks help for Rota-bound residents from Guam

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) has sought assistance from the COVID-19 Task Force in providing guidelines and testing accommodation on Rota for Rota-bound CNMI resident travelers from Guam who have been fully vaccinated in the CNMI.

In his letter last Friday to COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, Manglona said that, with the proper training and tools, a testing site on Rota is attainable and fully vaccinated CNMI residents may easily travel to Rota, especially returning Rota residents.

"Just so that we are on the same page, this is not a request for a quarantine facility or testing laboratory on Rota," he told Villagomez.

Last March, Villagomez said the task force is proactive on the Rota border because of the island's proximity to Guam, where the pandemic's vulnerability level is still very concerning to the task force.

Manglona said he understands that new entry regulations that allow fully vaccinated travelers to move freely in the CNMI without monitoring and quarantine was put in place last April 29.

Manglona said as the COVID-19 Task Force eases the

quarantine restrictions in the CNMI, he would like to know if the task force has any plans to provide a testing facility or site on Rota for fully vaccinated CNMI residents traveling to Rota from Guam via ocean vessels or airplane, in the event Star Marianas Air resumes direct passenger flights to Rota from Guam.

The senator said since the beginning of the pandemic, all passengers from Guam traveling to Rota have to first fly to Saipan because of the lack of a quarantine facility on Rota.

As a result, he said, Star Marianas Air ceased their Guam flight operations since early last year.

"Unlike in the early stages of the pandemic, Rota residents are no longer assisted after undergoing quarantine on Saipan with their air transportation costs from Saipan to Rota," he said.

Further, Manglona said, Rota residents who travel back and forth between Guam and the CNMI by boat on a regular basis have to travel to Saipan first to get tested and quarantined. "This has added to the economic hardship that Rota residents are already facing," the senator said. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cnmiports.com



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2021

Opening date: April 15, 2021 Closing date: May 05, 2021

Positions: (1) Grants Coordinator-Saipan
(1) Electrician-Saipan
(1) Ports Police Officer I-Saipan
(1) General Maintenance II-Rota Seaport

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 05, 2021.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

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Kilili launches 2021 API Heritage Month essay contest

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) invites middle and high school students in the Northern Mariana Islands to submit essays for his first-ever Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Essay Contest. A panel of local judges will select two winning essays—one from a middle school student and one from a high school student—for publication in the Congressional Record of the U.S. House of Representatives.



Sablan

"May is Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month—a time to celebrate the voices and contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders nationwide," Sablan said. "Young people in the Northern Marianas carry with them unique experiences, and their stories of growing up in the Marianas shape who they become later in life. I hope that this contest can be an opportunity for them to let their thoughts and stories be heard, so that we, as one community, can learn from them too."

The essay competition is free and open to all middle and high school students. Students have until 5pm on Friday, May

23, 2021, to submit their essays via an electronic form link on Sablan's website. Middle school students should submit an essay 300-500 words in length. High school students should submit an essay 500-750 words in length. This year's prompt is:

The Northern Marianas is home to many different cultures within the Asian and Pacific Islander community. Tell us about how API identity, culture, and community has impacted you, and what we can do as one Marianas community to best celebrate and respect the diversity in our islands.

Sablan will present winners with a framed copy of their essay as published in the Congressional Record, the official record of proceedings of the U.S. Congress.

Essays will be judged based on response to the topic, quality and clarity of thought, grammar and syntax, and organization and development. Further contest guidelines are available at <https://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/api-heritage-month-essay-contest>. For more information, contact the congressional office at (670) 323-2647 or email Kilili@mail.house.gov. (PR)

Docomo Pacific and Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI team up to welcome new Jedi Knight



Docomo Pacific teams up with Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI and others to grant the special wish of Jeremiah, fifth from right, who is presented with a mobile phone and laptop at a special giving event at GameStop in the Micronesian Mall.

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, teamed up with Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI and others to grant Jeremiah's special wish.

Jeremiah is a 12-year-old who enjoys Star Wars and really wanted his own mobile phone and laptop to help with online school. On April 6, Make-A-Wish Guam &

CNMI held a special giving event at GameStop in the Micronesian Mall. Docomo Pacific was alongside Macy's, Great American Cookie Co., Jamaican Grill, and GameStop in adding to the overall surprise of the event. They even connected with a local Star Wars fan organization and had a Jedi warrior present to coronate Jeremiah as a Jedi Knight and offer "protection" as he undergoes health treatments.

"We are so grateful for the support from the community in helping us grant Jeremiah's wish. Docomo Pacific came through with the top-of-the-line Samsung mobile phone and then threw in so many other awesome goodies—like a tablet, phone cards, and accessories! Macy's is always a

big supporter of our mission and once again made our wish kid feel special with a gift bundle of cool gadgets and other items. He ended his day with a cookie cake donated by Great American Cookie Co., and then two Jamaican Grill family platters donated by wish granter (and board member) Jason and his team at Raymond James & Associates. It truly was a magical wish granting day for everyone involved—especially Jeremiah and his family," said Eric Tydingco, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants life-changing wishes to children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Their goal is to grant every

eligible child's wish—a quest motivated by the belief that a wish is essential to a child's care. Today, the foundation has granted life-changing wishes to children battling critical illnesses. Make-A-Wish Guam & CNMI is able to continue granting the wishes of children around the island thanks to the generosity of sponsors, volunteers, and supporters. (PR)

Access to NEX Guam facilities expanded

Starting May 1, U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees may now shop at Navy Exchange Guam facilities.

Following the release of a recent DoD directive, DoD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and non-appropriated fund civilian employees are authorized to shop at military exchange stores in the United States and the U.S. territories. Online exchange access will also be available for active and retired DoD and Coast Guard APF and NAF civilian employees by mid-October.

This shopping access does not include the purchase of military uniforms, tobacco products or alcohol. All other commodity purchases, to include gas, will be allowable.

In order to shop at a NEX or any other military resale activity on May 1, a civilian employee will simply need to present a valid DoD civilian Common Access Card at the point of sale. If the customer does not have a CAC, they must show other valid proof of employment (i.e., Letter of Employment, SF- 50, Personnel Action Report, or other NAF equivalent document) and a valid government ID. (PR)



****VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS NOW AVAILABLE****

For Veterans Residing in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

How do I make an appointment?

- Email the Guam Benefits Office at: pctc.vbahon@va.gov
- Call the Guam Benefits Office and leave a message: (671) 489-3793

Include the following:

- Your email and phone number
- First and Last Name
- Reason for Contact

(For security reasons, DO NOT include your social security number in the email/phone call)

What happens next?

A Benefits Counselor will contact you within 2-hours of leaving a message.

If your message is received after 2:30pm, or on a holiday, or on a weekend, you will be notified the next business day of your scheduled interview date/time.

In all cases, a confirmation telephone call or email will be sent to the customer.

Appointment Days/Times: Monday through Friday, 8am to 3:30pm

Benefits Counselors will be available to address Non-Health Care related inquiries related to Compensation, Pension, Survivor Benefits, Claims, Appeals, Status Requests, Etc. and assistance with the claim process.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

OPENING DATE: May 04, 2021 CLOSING DATE: June 03, 2021 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-021	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	\$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/

JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



TASI TO TABLE GOES TO TINIAN

Walter Mendez of the CNMI Public School System's Mental Health Team demonstrates a stress and anxiety management technique at Tasi to Table Tinian's first program meeting on April 24 at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School. TTT Tinian's four-month pilot program aims to give high school students an opportunity to earn elective credit hours toward graduation while learning the joys of fishing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHEFA application period opens

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program is now accepting applications for fall 2021. Deadline for the fall 2021 application only is July 1, 2021. You may pick up an application at our office or you may get one from the SHEFA website at www.saipanshefa.net. (PR)

5.0-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 9:01am on May 3, 2021, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred at 17.927°N 147.088°E in the Marianas region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings, or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. (PR)

4.3-magnitude quake northwest of Saipan

At 1:23pm on May 1, 2021, a report of a 4.3-magnitude earthquake occurred 64 kilometers northwest of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories

issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. (PR)

BECQ sets beach cleanup on May 8

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Beach Cleanup will be picking up trash at Makaka Beach on May 8, 2021, from 8am to 10am. If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday between the ABC store and the ca-

sino at 7:45am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am. Bring reusable water bottles. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ at 664-8500/1. (PR)

Guam PTAC sets free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in May. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be con-

ducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **May 6-DUNS & SAM:** If you want to be a Federal contractor/vendor, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM. We will show you how to register your business in these two systems as well as how to make sure your annual re-certification is seamless.

■ **May 13 - Federal Con-**

tract Opportunities: Beta.sam.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. We will show you how to set-up an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ **May 20-PIEE/WAWF:** Department of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. We will show you how to setup an ac-

count and submit an invoice so you get paid on time.

■ **May 27-Cybersecurity:** The Department of Defense is requiring cybersecurity certification for vendors. We will discuss the best way to comply with DOD's requirement. The upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and the DFARS Interim Rule will be discussed.

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

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TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN PETER DUENAS DEL ROSARIO, Deceased.)
CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0142

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rose Duenas Del Rosario has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of John Peter Duenas Del Rosario, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

NOTICE is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the estate of John Peter Duenas Del Rosario, deceased, and to all persons claiming interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHR, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

Dated: 30th of April, 2021

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

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EDITORIAL

Biden spending spree bad for economy

President Joe Biden marked his first 100 days in office this week by laying out a massive spending plan, as well as massive tax increases that would only partially cover the costs while inflicting significant damage to the economy. His plan would also harm those the president purports to help: families.

In his first address to Congress Wednesday, Biden further distanced himself from his campaign promises of bringing the country together. By adding on trillions of new spending and slapping businesses and successful Americans with hefty taxes, the president is signaling he is more concerned about appeasing progressives in his party than in finding consensus on moving the country past the pandemic. Even moderate Democrats have expressed hesitancy.

The amount of spending the federal government has incurred the past year to combat COVID is already astronomical. Roughly \$5.3 trillion has gone to direct payments, small businesses and the states. Biden just recently signed the latest \$1.9 trillion relief package, but failed to get any GOP support. America's debt stands at \$28 trillion.

The president is just getting warmed up, however. Two new spending proposals—the “American Families Plan” and the “American Jobs Plan”—would pile on more than \$4 trillion. Some of the spending that's actually directed to infrastructure projects could get bipartisan buy-in. Yet the plans read more like liberal wish lists and aren't likely to get Republican support.

Biden has dubbed these joint plans a once-in-a-generation investment to restructure the economy. But if Democrats ram this through, it could have the unpleasant effect of hampering the economy, job creators and families at a time they are already fragile. As usual, the wealthy and businesses are the target of new tax increases.

The Families Plan would invest billions in child care, universal preschool, paid family leave and “free” community college, and Biden calls for paying for all this in part by doubling the capital gains tax to 39.6% from the current rate of 20% for those making more than \$1 million a year.

Biden has promised that no one earning less than \$400,000 would see a tax hike, but if all these spending priorities are passed, there's no way that the middle class won't get hit.

The president has also called for the federal corporate tax rate to rise to 28% from the current 21%, which would impact small businesses, too.

“This tax hike would reduce wages, cost jobs, harm economic growth, cut investment, and make America less competitive,” according to a Heritage Foundation analysis. “Make no mistake, increasing taxes on businesses hurts real people.”

In addition, Biden is advocating a stiff inheritance tax by doing away with the “step up in basis” provision that allows heirs to avoid a capital gains tax when they inherit assets, such as stocks and property that appreciated in value under the previous owner.

See **BIDEN** on Next Page



Vaccine passports are the nudge we need to achieve herd immunity

To hear some people tell it, vaccine passports are just another effort by Democrats, progressives and Satan to take away your freedom, just like when they told you to wear a mask and made you shut down your business.

In a hyperventilating Wall Street Journal op-ed a couple of weeks ago, two medical school professors lit viciously into the idea of vaccine passports, calling them, among other things, “a coercive scheme to encourage vaccination.”

But vaccine passports aren't coercive. And as for encouraging vaccination, would that be such a bad thing?

The United States will remain at risk until we reach herd immunity, which means we need somewhere between 70% and 85% of Americans to get vaccinated. If protecting themselves isn't enough to encourage people to get the shot, perhaps changing the incentives will be.

A vaccine passport, for those who haven't been following this bit of partisan warfare, is an official credential of inoculation. The idea is that once people get their inoculations, the “passports” would grant them access to venues denied to those without them. Airlines, sports stadiums, concert halls, malls, office complexes or schools, for example, might decide to allow only those with vaccine passports. The passports would be digital, for the most part—an app on your phone, say, that you could flash for entry.

Countries from Britain to Israel to Singapore to Aruba are moving toward—or already using—some form of vaccine passports.

I have trouble seeing what's coercive about them. Vaccines would still be an option, not a mandate. Like a driver's license. If you want to drive a car, you need to get a license, for safety's sake. But if you don't feel like getting a license, that's OK too—you also have the option of not driving a car.

Similarly, if you want your child to attend public school, you need to prove that he or she has been inoculated. If you're not willing to have your child be vaccinated for the safety of others, you have the option of home-schooling.

It would be the same with vaccine passports. If you wanted to go back to concert arenas and crowded theaters, you'd get yourself vaxxed and claim your passport. If you preferred to opt out, you could do that.

From the start, the main justification for vaccine passports has been the straightforward one: People who are vaccinated are very unlikely to contract the virus or to infect others. So it makes sense that they should be allowed to fly on planes around the world, go to crowded sporting events and concerts—whereas unvaccinated people are both more vulnerable and more dangerous to others. Passports offer a way of reopening the economy

By **NICHOLAS GOLDBERG**
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



with a minimum of risk.

But I actually find their potential as a “nudge” to get people to do the right thing equally compelling.

An NPR/Marist poll this month found that 1 in 4 Americans said they would reject a COVID-19 vaccine if offered one.

But simply knowing that, without vaccinations, they couldn't enter their local bar or attend a concert or board an overseas flight might be enough to persuade many hesitant people to get inoculated.

Harvard law professor Cass Sunstein and University of Chicago economist Richard Thaler have long written about this kind of nudge. The two academics, who have a particular interest in behavioral economics, have argued that it is often possible to help people make smart decisions for themselves and society by subtly nudging them in the proper direction. Without heavy-handed mandates, but through “libertarian paternalism,” as Sunstein and Thaler have called it, people can be encouraged, maneuvered or incentivized toward making the best possible choices.

Thaler has called vaccine passports a “perk” for those who have been inoculated.

Vaccine passports would have been wrong when only a small portion of the population had been deemed eligible for vaccination. And they still shouldn't be required for those under 16, who aren't eligible, or those with medical conditions prohibiting vaccinations. Also, for the proposal to work fairly, every one who wants a vaccination should have access to one.

But today, with virtually every American 16 or over eligible for a shot, those who aren't vaccinated are increasingly those who choose not to be because they can't be bothered or they don't see the advantage of it or because they harbor unreasonable fears about the risks.

The Biden administration has already said it will not press for a mandatory national vaccine credential. And a number of Republican governors have called for bans on them in their states.

See **VACCINE** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Vaccine passports are a reality, whatever they're called

I downloaded my vaccine passport the other day.

Of course, it wasn't called a vaccine passport. Rather, it was an "Excelsior Pass," issued by New York State. In addition to verifying that I have been fully vaccinated, it has a QR code that ticket-takers can scan when I want to go to Madison Square Garden to see the resurgent Knicks or Yankee Stadium to watch the faltering Yankees. It can also show the last time the holder has tested negative for COVID-19; more on that in a moment.

The Excelsior Pass, developed with IBM, is the first government-issued proof of vaccination in the U.S. But it won't be the last—at least 17 more are in the works in the U.S. alone. In the media, and among government officials, vaccine passports are the subject of debate and controversy. Right-wing pundits and politicians have denounced them as a threat to personal liberty—just like mask mandates. Many liberals worry that they will further exacerbate "pandemic inequality" because the vaccination rate among the poor is low. Recently, the White House declared that Americans would not be required to "obtain a single vaccination credential."

On the other hand, the Washington Post reported in late March that the Department of Health and Human Services is "working to develop a standard way of handling credentials ... that would allow Americans to prove they've been vaccinated against the novel coronavirus as businesses try to reopen." At a recent White House pandemic briefing, Jeff Zients, Biden's coronavirus coordinator, said that the administration's goal was to "help ensure that any solution in this area should be simple, free, open source, accessible to people both digitally and on paper, and designed from the start to protect people's privacy."

That doesn't exactly sound as if the administration is opposed to the idea of vaccine passports. And, indeed, it's not. There may not be a single national passport, but states and the private sector are developing any number of certification apps. Regardless of what they are called or however strident the opposition, vaccine passports are, in fact, going to be inevitable for any return to something resembling normal interaction.

For example, universities are going to need them soon. Several dozen universities are already requiring all incoming students for the fall 2021 semester to be vaccinated—small schools like Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, and large institutions like Duke University. The California State Univer-

sity system is requiring not just students but faculty and staff to be vaccinated once the Food and Drug Administration gives the vaccines its full approval (as opposed to the current emergency use authorization). (In all cases, people who can cite religious or medical reasons for skipping vaccinations are exempt.)

With additional schools announcing vaccine mandates almost daily, it seems likely that by September the vast majority of universities will require proof that students have been vaccinated.

Given that universities have been a chief source of infection—with 535,000 COVID-19 cases, according to the New York Times—it is hardly a surprise that school officials nationwide would want a vaccinated student body. Brian Clark, a Brown University spokesman, told me that there has been very little push-back. "Most on campus recognize that the sooner the vast majority of our community is vaccinated, the sooner we can return to a more traditional campus experience," he wrote in an email.

Americans who want to take that long-delayed European vacation are going to need vaccine passports. Just a few days ago, the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, told the New York Times that because the U.S. is using vaccines that have been approved by the European Medicines Agency, Americans would be free to travel to any of the EU countries. But to do so, they are going to have to prove they have received one of the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. From the Times article: "Technical discussions have been going on for several weeks between European Union and United States officials on how to practically and technologically make vaccine certificates from each place broadly readable so that citizens can use them to travel without restrictions."

Inevitably, airlines will have to enforce any vaccine certification requirement imposed by European countries—which means that many international flights will be restricted to those who have been vaccinated and can prove it.

And on it goes. Professional sports are going to want to employ vaccine passports, especially once they are allowed to fill up their arenas. Concert venues will, too. And Broadway theaters and cruise lines; really, just about anywhere that people come in close contact.

Vaccine passports aren't the death knell of liberty that opponents proclaim. Many people have come to take for granted a lot of mandated safety requirements that they resisted at first such as car seat belts and motorcycle helmets in some states. "Every-

By **JOE NOCERA**

Bloomberg Opinion

Joe Nocera is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering business. He has written business columns for Esquire, GQ and The New York Times, and is the former editorial director of Fortune. His latest project is the Bloomberg-Wondery podcast The Shrink Next Door.



one is sick of masks," Donald G. McNeil Jr., the former New York Times pandemic reporter, wrote recently. "So the only way we're going to finish it is through vaccination. And we do need to know who's vaccinated."

As I mentioned earlier, the Excelsior Pass that I downloaded doesn't just show that I'm vaccinated, it can also keep track of COVID-19 tests. So far, venues such as Yankee Stadium allow the unvaccinated in as long as they can show they had either a negative PCR or rapid antigen test within the previous 72 hours. I suspect most other places will do the same.

Thus, people who object to the COVID-19 vaccine can't complain of being discriminated against. They can go to ballgames or concerts and sit side by side with the vaccinated.

But, perhaps unwittingly, allowing people to be tested instead of vaccinated also provides incentive for full vaccination. Imagine being an unvaccinated Yankees' season-ticket holder. Such a person would have to take a COVID-19 test a few days before most home games. Getting vaccinated, on the other hand, means never having to be tested again. The COVID-19 test requirement thus becomes what behavioral economists like to call a "nudge" to encourage vaccination.

Richard Thaler, the Nobel-prize winning behavioral economist at the University of Chicago, says vaccine passports should feel like a "perk to those who have been inoculated"—one that would lure the more reluctant to get their jabs as well.

It's pointless to argue against vaccine passports. They are simply too useful to set aside. Once they are in use for European travel and crowded events, even resisters such as Governor Greg Abbott of Texas and Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida will most likely tamp down their political objections. (Abbott has forbidden any state agency to require a vaccine passport. DeSantis has gone even further: He has said that private businesses cannot mandate vaccine passports. However, it is difficult to see how he will be able to enforce such a decree.)

Just imagine going through customs in Paris, pulling out your phone, watching the customs official scan your vaccine passport and then waving you through. It's going to feel almost as good as getting vaccinated in the first place, and painless to boot.

BIDEN

From Page 8

"If this goes into effect, you will see many Michigan farms, cottages, and small businesses broken up and sold," said Patrick Anderson, principal of Anderson Economic Group, in an email. "Only on paper is this not heartless."

These harmful consequences of the proposed big giveaways must be considered. We hope Biden returns to his promises of bipartisan governing.

(c) 2021 *The Detroit News*

VACCINE

From Page 8

But the reality is, vaccine requirements are already upon us. Last week, the University of California and California State University said that they would require all students, faculty and staff who are on campus this fall to be vaccinated. And the president of the European Commission suggested that if Americans wanted to travel to Europe this summer, they would have to show that they had been inoculated.

I'm not eager to live in a society where some people have privileges that others do not. But if we find we can't reach herd immunity in the midst of this once-in-a-lifetime crisis because some people aren't behaving responsibly, vaccine passports could play a crucial role.

Let's keep teaching outdoors

During the pandemic, schools across the country turned themselves inside out, holding classes outdoors to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. And now that vaccination is driving down transmission rates, school administrators are eager to get students back in the classroom.

But disease prevention is just one of many reasons to educate kids outdoors. As we invest in pandemic recovery and infrastructure, we should make sure all students have access to nature-filled outdoor spaces.

Consider the experience of Portland, Maine, one of the country's first public school districts to develop a district-wide outdoor learning program in response to COVID-19. By last fall, half of the district's teachers were using one of 156 new outdoor classroom spaces provided on every school campus.

Portland students enjoyed hands-on learning outdoors. They studied pollination in a community garden. And at first snowfall, they were outside learning how snowflakes are formed. The experience of students and teachers in Portland affirmed what research has shown: When students play in nature they are kinder to each other, more physically active and more creative.

There are clear educational benefits, as well. Many students who struggle in a classroom setting thrive in an active, outdoor environment. Learning outside helps teachers see those students as capable, while the students themselves feel successful in school.

The benefits of outdoor learning can even be measured on test scores. Three years after Los Angeles's Leo Politi Elementary School added a small wildlife garden, fifth-grade standardized science scores rose from just 9% proficient to 53% proficient or advanced.

By opening our schoolyards and adding access to nature, we can create schools that heal as well as teach. A majority of today's public school students deal with layered crises of poverty and trauma, a fear of school shootings and neighborhood violence, and a genuine concern for the future of their planet. In response, schools are adopting trauma-informed teaching and

By **CLAIRE LATANÉ**

Tribune News Service

Claire Latané is an assistant professor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and the author of Schools That Heal: Design with Mental Health in Mind. This column was produced for The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.



hiring more counselors in schools.

These ongoing approaches are vital, and nature-filled outdoor spaces can help. Access to nature can help us heal faster, lessen stress and anxiety, reduce student crime and disorderly conduct, help struggling students and improve environmental and physical health.






There are 53,669 low-income Title 1 schools in the United States, 55% of our public schools. The American Rescue Plan, signed into law in March, includes \$126 billion for these schools. Some 20% of those funds are expected to go toward school facilities, according to the 21st Century School Fund.

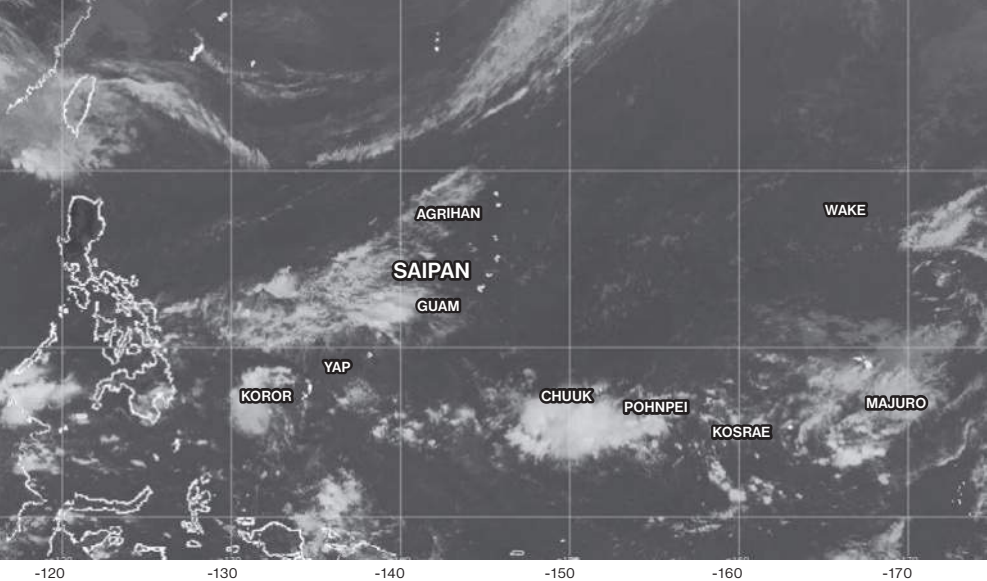
This means that districts could invest around half a m\$500,000 into improving the buildings and grounds of every Title 1 school in the United States. That is enough to completely transform a campus into an outdoor space for learning, or open a school building to nature.

The pandemic may be winding down, but the challenges facing students and schools are as daunting as ever. Outdoor learning was a lifeline during the worst days of COVID-19, and its benefits extend well beyond preventing disease.

So, as we return to school, let's not go back to keeping students inside all day. Instead, let's invest in welcoming, nature-filled schools to support students and teachers' mental and physical health. We can design schools that heal.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. An upper-level trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the west, mainly west of 142E. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed of east swell and some east-northeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 80 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85 72 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:54 AM	12:29 PM	-
Wednesday	1:40 AM	1:24 PM	-
Thursday	2:22 AM	2:15 PM	-
Friday	3:00 AM	3:04 PM	-
Saturday	3:36 AM	3:51 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	62 53 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	81 56 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81 75 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	79 70 °F	
London	Rain	61 47 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	80 61 °F	
Manila	Cloudy	93 81 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63 49 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84 75 °F	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	74 63 °F	
Osaka	Sunny	77 60 °F	
Paris	Cloudy	62 43 °F	
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	78 49 °F	
Rome	Sunny	69 52 °F	
Salem	Cloudy	62 44 °F	
San Francisco	Sunny	73 58 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	81 52 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	79 51 °F	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	83 63 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:07 AM	Low Tide	1.91	
8:53 AM	High Tide	1.29	
12:51 PM	Low Tide	1.58	
8:25 PM	High Tide	0.13	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily				
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily				
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily				
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily				
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable				

Business

IP&E phases out use of disposable plastic bags

TAMUNING, Guam—The IP&E management team, Shell Stations, and Foody's in Guam have taken action toward reducing waste during Earth Month. As of April 16, 2021, all Guam Foody's Stores and Shell Shops phased out disposable bags entirely and implemented the use of reusable bags, including its very own Foody's black bag.

Brian Bamba, IP&E's man-

aging director, said, "We are excited about launching this program in all our stores here on Guam. This initiative supports our efforts to reduce waste and is part of an overarching company mission to find opportunities that shape a more sustainable energy future for our islands. We encourage our customers to join us in this effort and reduce the amount of plastic that is discarded by

Apple's app store goes on trial in threat to 'walled garden'

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—On Monday, Apple faces one of its most serious legal threats in recent years: A trial that threatens to upend its iron control over its app store, which brings in billions of dollars each year while feeding more than 1.6 billion iPhones, iPads, and other devices.

The federal court case is being brought by Epic Games, maker of the popular video game Fortnite. Epic wants to topple the so-called "walled garden" of the app store, which Apple started building 13 years ago as part of a strategy masterminded by co-founder Steve Jobs.

Epic charges that Apple has transformed a once-tiny digital storefront into an illegal monopoly that squeezes mobile apps for a significant slice of their earnings. Apple takes a commission of 15% to 30% on purchases made within apps, including everything from digital items in games to subscriptions. Apple denies Epic's charge.

Apple's highly successful formula has helped turn the iPhone maker into one of the world's most profitable companies, one with a market value that now tops \$2.2 trillion.

Privately held Epic is puny by comparison, with an estimated market value of \$30 billion. Its aspirations to get bigger hinge in part on its plan to offer an alternative app store on the iPhone. The North Carolina company also wants to break free of Apple's commissions. Epic says it forked over hundreds of millions of dollars to Apple before Fortnite was expelled from its app store last August, after Epic added a payment system that bypassed Apple.

Epic then sued Apple, prompting a courtroom drama that could shed new light on Apple's management of

its app store. Both Apple CEO Tim Cook and Epic CEO Tim Sweeney will testify in a Oakland, California federal courtroom that will be set up to allow for social distancing and will require masks at all times.

Neither side wanted a jury trial, leaving the decision to U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, who already seems to know her ruling will probably be appealed, given the stakes in the case.

Much of the evidence will revolve around arcane but crucial arguments about market definitions.

Epic contends the iPhone has become so ingrained in society that the device and its ecosystem have turned into a monopoly Apple can exploit to unfairly enrich itself and thwart competition.

Apple claims it faces significant competition from various alternatives to video games on iPhones. For instance, it points out that about 2 billion other smartphones don't run iPhone software or work with its app store—primarily those relying on Google's Android system. Epic has filed a separate case against Google, accusing it of illegally gouging apps through its own app store for Android devices.

Apple will also depict Epic as a desperate company hungry for sources of revenue beyond the aging Fortnite. It claims Epic merely wants to freeloader off an iPhone ecosystem in which Apple has invested more than \$100 billion over the past 15 years.

Estimates of Apple's app store revenue range from \$15 billion to \$18 billion annually. Apple disputes those estimates, although it hasn't publicly disclosed its own figures. Instead, it has emphasized that it doesn't collect a cent from 85% of the apps in its store.



The Foody's black bag.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

replacing single-use plastic bags with a reusable bag."

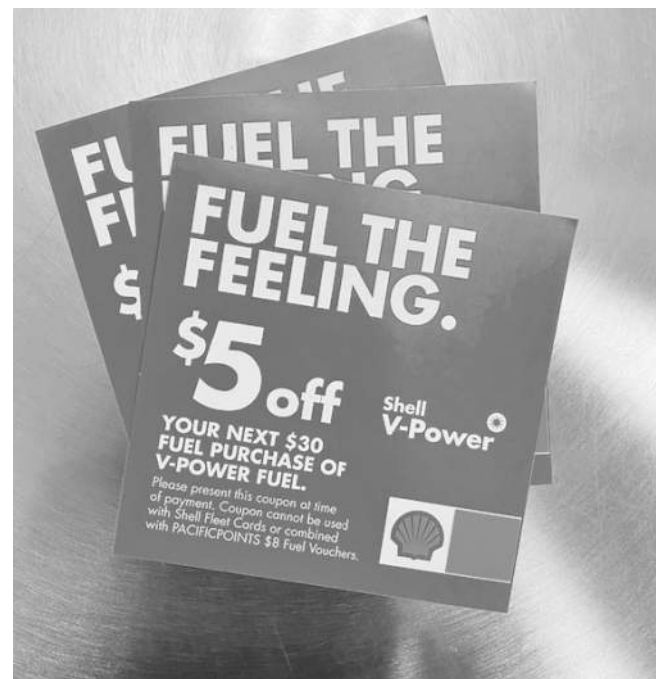
Through June 30, 2021, Foody's stores are offering a special promotion: customers who purchase \$7 or more will receive a free small or large reusable bag with their store purchase. Customers who spend less than \$7 can buy a reusable bag for only 99 cents. All customers who bring back their Foody's reusable bag will receive 10 PACIFICPOINTS with every store transaction during the same promotional period.

The Foody's reusable bags

come in two sizes and can be easily folded up to carry in your purse or pocket. "We had our team test the prototypes of these bags because we really wanted to give our customers something that would be useful in their everyday life," explained Bill Ada, Director of Retail Operations and Marketing.

Beginning yesterday, May 3 through June 30, customers will also receive a \$5 coupon off their next \$30.00 V-Power transaction every time they bring back their Foody's black bag.

Ada added, "In order to



V-Power \$5 Coupons.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

be successful in building a sustainable future we need to change our behaviors and attitudes towards reducing waste and minimizing our carbon footprint. Eliminating single-use plastic bags is one of many things we can do to make a difference and while the Guam law will go into effect later this year, we have been planning to do this even prior to the law being passed in showing our commitment to help change behaviors, IP&E is rewarding customers who use our reusable bags with \$5 Off their V-Power purchase as well as giving them 10 bonus PACIFICPOINTS."

As we acknowledge the 2021 Earth Day theme of Restore our Earth, the team at Foody's and Shell would like

to thank their customers and the entire island community for their support as we take steps toward reducing our carbon footprint and making responsible choices about sustainability.

For Shell Station and Store updates, visit our website (www.ipeguam.com) and social media channels (@shell-foodysguam on Instagram and Facebook).

IP&E Holdings, LLC is the retail and commercial supplier of petroleum products on Guam, Saipan, and Palau. It operates all of the islands' Shell Service Stations through a licensing agreement with Shell. For additional information on Shell, Foody's, and Autowash, please contact Camille Denight, marketing manager, at 671-685-5909. (PR)

Yellen: Biden's phased-in spending plan won't fuel inflation

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's massive proposed spending on infrastructure, families and education will not fuel inflation because the plans would be phased in gradually over 10 years, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday.

New economic reports have portrayed a surging recovery from the recession unleashed by the coronavirus pandemic. Americans' incomes soared in March by the most on record, boosted by \$1,400 federal stimulus checks, and the economy expanded at a vigorous annual rate of 6.4% in the first three months of the year, leading to concern over inflationary pressures.

Some economists, notably former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, have warned that the Federal Reserve's current ultra-low interest rates, along

with the Biden administration's proposed \$4 trillion in new spending, atop about \$5 trillion already approved by Congress, risk accelerating inflation.

Biden laid out his expansive plans in an address to Congress last week. They would expand the social safety net for children, increase taxes on the wealthy and fund projects that take an ambitious definition of infrastructure, with an eye to stabilizing the economy over the long term with middle-class jobs.

Addressing fears about inflation, Yellen said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the proposed spending "comes into effect once the economy is back on track."

"It's spread out quite evenly over eight to 10 years. So the boost to demand is moderate," she said. "I don't believe that inflation will be an issue, but if

it becomes an issue, we have tools to address it."

Yellen, a former Fed chair, said the central bank "has the tools to redress inflation should it arise."

Fed Chairman Jay Powell has clearly indicated that he does not believe a sharp surge in prices is likely. Powell is betting that the Fed can keep interest rates low even as the economic recovery intensifies, and will not have to quickly raise rates to stop runaway inflation.

Yellen called the Biden plans "historic investments that we need to make our economy productive and fair."

She noted that the administration is proposing that the spending be paid for by raising the tax rate on corporations above the current level of 21% and closing loopholes to encourage U.S. corporations to shift their income abroad

to tax havens. People earning more than a million dollars annually would see a tax increase on their capital gains and dividends to 39.6%, the same rate as income for families making over \$400,000 a year before the 2017 Trump tax law.

The administration is pledging that under its plan, no family earning less than \$400,000 would pay a penny more in taxes.

Like the spending plans, the tax changes must be enacted by Congress, and the White House's negotiations with Republican lawmakers, and some Democrats, who staunchly oppose tax increases promise to be strenuous.

"Anybody that says this is going to be just on the 1 percent or big corporations -- I mean, that's just phony math," Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said on ABC's "This Week."

Nation

Asian Americans see generational split on confronting racism

ATLANTA (AP)—The fatal shootings of eight people — six of them women of Asian descent — at Georgia massage businesses in March propelled Claire Xu into action.

Within days, she helped organize a rally condemning violence against Asian Americans that drew support from a broad group of activists, elected officials and community members. But her parents objected.

“We don’t want you to do this,” Xu, 31, recalled their telling her afterward. “You can write about stuff, but don’t get your face out there.”

The shootings and other recent attacks on Asian Americans have exposed a generational divide in the community. Many young activists say their parents and other elders are saddened by the violence but question the value of protests or worry about their consequences. They’ve also found the older generations tend to identify more closely with their ethnic groups — Chinese or Vietnamese, for example — and appear reluctant to acknowledge racism.

That divide makes it harder to forge a collective Asian American constituency that can wield political power and draw attention to the wave of assaults against people of Asian descent in the U.S. since the coronavirus pandemic began, community leaders say.

“In our original countries, where our ancestors came from, they wouldn’t even imagine that someone from Bangladesh would be lumped



Claire Xu, poses for a photo, Friday, April 9, 2021, in Decatur, Ga., Xu was propelled into action following the mass fatal shootings of eight people, six of them Asian women, at a Georgia massage businesses in March.

in the same group as someone from Laos,” said Angela Hsu, president of the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

But those differences obscure a shared experience of “feeling like we’re constantly thought of as being foreign in our own country,” said U.S. Rep. Andy Kim, of New Jersey.

Much of the recent violence against Asian Americans has

targeted the elderly, and some seniors have attended rallies to condemn it. But Cora McDonnell, 79, said she did not want to speak out, though she is now scared to walk to the church blocks from her Seattle home.

She emigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines in 1985 and said her culture was “more respectful.”

“You talk maybe in your family, but not really public-

ly,” she said. “You don’t really blurt out things.”

Lani Wong, 73, said she understood that feeling, though she does not adhere to it.

“Just don’t stir the pot, don’t get involved,” said Wong, chairwoman of the National Association of Chinese Americans. “I think that was the mentality of the older generation.”

Some young Asian Americans said they were frustrated by family members’ reactions to the shootings.

E. Lim said it was “infuriating and really sad” to hear her parents cast aspersions on the massage work done by some of the Georgia shooting victims.

“It’s almost like this desperation for denial so that

they don’t have to recognize that there is a world that hates them,” said Lim, organizing and civic engagement director for Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta.

A pastor in the Atlanta area, Tae Chin, said his Korean mother-in-law also questioned the victims’ line of work while urging him not to focus on race. Four of the slain women were of Korean descent.

“Just work hard. Just live. Just be a good person, and they’ll see someday,” Chin, 41, recalled her saying on a phone call after the March 16 attack. “I’m like, ‘That’s why we have this problem to begin with, because that’s exactly what we do.’”

Allison Wang’s parents

were similarly inclined and thought she was wasting her time protesting the shootings.

“I think they believe that it’s more important to focus on your career and family and don’t really feel like we can make a difference,” said Wang, who helped Xu put together the rally in downtown Atlanta.

For Raymond Tran’s family, the political history of one of their home countries played a role in opposing his involvement in any organizations. The attorney raised in Los Angeles said that when he was growing up, his parents told him about an uncle imprisoned and tortured by Vietnamese communists after joining a student group.

Racist policies in the U.S. strictly limited immigrants from Asia until the 1960s, so many Asian families have been in the country for only a generation or two. It’s not unusual for new immigrants to focus on providing for their families, avoiding attention in favor of assimilation.

Asian immigrants face the added burden of the “model minority” stereotype that portrays them as industrious, law-abiding and uncomplaining, and ascribes their achievements to those traits, historians and advocates say.

“It divides generations,” said Maki Hsieh, CEO of the Asian Hall of Fame, a program that honors Asian leaders. “It divides Asians from each other, and ultimately it divides them from other groups.”

Xu said her parents worried about her safety, but she thinks their objections to her activism also stemmed in part from a desire to avoid trouble. They understood the need to speak out against anti-Asian violence but didn’t want her to do it, she said.

Use-of-force cases prompt state debates over officer records

DENVER (AP)—Lawmakers in more than 20 states have considered bills this year to make the disciplinary records of police officers public or to share them with other agencies, a push that comes amid high-profile deaths at the hands of law enforcement. About 20 states still largely prohibit their release, however.

Supporters of greater transparency say it could help improve police accountability, build trust with the community and prevent officers with disciplinary problems who leave one department from being hired by another.

Opponents say the release of such records could harm the reputations of officers with only minor infractions or even put them in danger. They also argue that disciplinary actions are part of personnel records, which are exempt from state open

records laws.

But amid growing nationwide protests against alleged excessive force by police officers, at least 16 states have contemplated measures to release such records, or summaries of them, publicly. Another eight have discussed making the records accessible to other law enforcement agencies.

In Utah, Republican Gov. Spencer Cox signed a bill in March providing legal immunity to law enforcement agencies that share background information about former employees with other agencies looking to hire.

State Sen. Jani Iwamoto, a Democrat in the GOP-dominated Legislature, introduced the legislation in response to the case of a University of Utah officer who resigned while being investigated for allegedly sharing explicit photographs of a victim in an

alleged extortion case who was later killed. The officer was later hired by police in Logan, Utah, who did not know about the probe.

“We want people to feel that they can report a bad cop,” said Iwamoto, who also successfully sponsored another bill to ensure that police disciplinary investigations are completed even if an officer resigns while one is in progress.

Without legislation in place, lawyers advised police departments not to share disciplinary records lest they be sued, Iwamoto said.

In North Carolina’s Republican-controlled legislature, lawmakers want to create a confidential database from which law enforcement agencies in the state can track all disciplinary actions to prevent officers from hiding past problems when looking for a new job.

Adviser suggests Biden still wears mask outside out of habit

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—One of President Joe Biden’s top White House advisers suggested Sunday that he’s still wearing a mask outdoors out of habit although the latest public health guidance says he doesn’t need it.

Questioned about Biden’s practice, senior adviser Anita Dunn told CNN’s “State of the Union” that she realized that she was also still wearing her mask outdoors even after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said fully vaccinated people like her and Biden can stop wearing masks outside when they’re alone or not among strangers.

“I myself found that I was

still wearing my mask outdoors this week, because it has become such a matter of habit,” Dunn said. “I think the president takes the CDC guidelines very seriously. And he’s always taken his role as sending a signal to follow the science very seriously, as well.”

Biden wore a mask outdoors several times last week as he approached microphones to give speeches, including an appearance on the White House lawn last Tuesday to discuss the CDC’s relaxed mask guidance.

Asked afterward about the message he was sending by wearing a mask outside as he

stood alone, Biden replied: “By watching me take it off and not put it back on until I get inside.”

The CDC recently said Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 don’t need to cover their faces anymore unless they’re in a large crowd of strangers.

Some public health experts have questioned Biden’s continued mask-wearing outdoors.

Dunn said some extra precautions are taken with Biden since he is president. She urged people to follow CDC guidelines and to get fully vaccinated because that will mean they can go mask-free outside as summer approaches.

World

Indian leader's party takes electoral hit amid virus surge

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi failed to make gains in four recent state elections, according to preliminary voting trends released Sunday by the independent Election Commission, indicating his Hindu nationalist party's political strength may be slipping as the country struggles to contain an unprecedented surge in coronavirus cases.

The Election Commission's vote forecast showed the Bharatiya Janata Party trailing in West Bengal state behind a powerful regional party, apparently unable to dislodge the state's firebrand chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, after a hard-fought campaign.

Modi's party looks set to retain power in the northeastern Assam state for a second term,

but failed to pick up any significant gains there or make inroads in two southern states, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Final results will be released late Sunday.

Even before the current virus surge, Modi's party faced stiff challenges in these local legislative elections. Following the disappointing results, Modi stands weakened but faces no threats to staying on as prime minister until

his term ends in 2024.

"The BJP started running out of steam as the pandemic spread," said political analyst Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay.

"The verdict in West Bengal state will definitely weaken Modi's position," he added, but cautioned that further study of the results was needed in order to say how much they were a referendum on the BJP's handling of

the COVID-19 outbreak.

With 70% of the vote counted in West Bengal, the rival All India Trinamool Congress party could win 211 out of 292 seats in the state legislature—having won 21 seats so far and leading in another 190. That's compared to potentially just 80 seats for the BJP, which has won three seats outright and leads in 77.

In Assam's 125-seat state legislature, the BJP and its allies are ahead in the race for 75 seats, compared to 49 seats tipping toward its main challengers.

Supporters of the All India Trinamool Congress party—many without masks and ignoring social distancing guidelines—held victory celebrations and set off firecrackers in West Bengal after the initial results were released.

Health experts say the massive electoral rallies and marches held as voters cast their ballots in March and April are partly to blame for the subsequent spike in COVID-19 infections. Public anger for allowing the elections to go forward despite the risk has been directed at both Modi's government and the Election Commission.

Last week, the High Court in

Tamil Nadu state slammed the Election Commission for allowing crowded campaigns in the middle of a global pandemic. India's daily new virus cases began rising past 100,000 in late March, and above 300,000 daily new cases on April 21, collapsing India's tattered health care system.

"Your institution is singularly responsible for the second wave of COVID-19. Your officers should be booked on murder charges probably," the court said.

Polly Roy, a professor of virology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said last week that India's extremely dense population and the government's lax rules about election rallies and religious gatherings fueled the outbreak. Experts have also blamed new, more contagious virus variants.

Nationwide, death is so omnipresent that burial grounds are running out of space in many cities, and glowing funeral pyres blaze through the night. With the government unable to maintain a steady supply of oxygen to overwhelmed hospitals, desperate relatives plead for oxygen outside or weep in the street for loved ones who died waiting for treatment.

Iranian foreign minister apologizes for leaked comments

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—After coming under fire from Iran's supreme leader, the country's foreign minister offered him a direct and extensive apology Sunday for recorded comments leaked to the public last week.

The recordings that surfaced of Mohammad Javad Zarif, including a blunt appraisal of the country's internal power struggles and criticism of the powerful late Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, have sent shock waves through Iran less than two weeks before presidential elections. Officials in the Islamic Republic carefully mind their words amid a cut-throat political environment that involves the powerful Revolutionary Guard, ultimately overseen by the country's supreme leader.

"I am so sorry," Zarif wrote in an Instagram post, "that part of my comments were stolen and published for misuse by

enemies of the country and its people, and that it caused you, supreme leader, to feel regret."

The statement came after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appeared to lambast Zarif in a televised speech on Sunday.

In his address, Khamenei refrained from calling out Zarif by name. But he described "a big mistake that must not be made by an official of the Islamic Republic," noting that the leaked comments "are a repetition of what Iran's enemies say."

"Some remarks have been heard from officials that are regrettable and surprising," he added.

Zarif's Instagram apology followed an earlier one to the family of Soleimani, who was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Iraq last year. In the post, he repeated that the leaked

seven-hour conversation was never meant for release. He expressed remorse for departing from Iran's official line, acknowledging that "following the supreme leader's suggestions and decisions is an undeniable necessity."

He added: "Your comments are the final say on all matters for me and my colleagues. As an expert in foreign relations, I always believe that it should be managed and guided by the superior."

Zarif's criticism of the revered Soleimani, whose funeral processions in Iran drew millions of people to the streets, ignited instant controversy. In the recordings, Zarif takes issue with Soleimani's relations with Russia, which he accused of trying to sabotage Tehran's 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers. He also denounces Solei-

mani's refusal to stop using the U.S.-sanctioned national carrier, Iran Air, for operations in war-torn Syria despite Zarif's objections.

Speculation had mounted in recent weeks that Zarif, the Iranian official most closely associated with the now-tattered nuclear agreement, would challenge hard-liners in the upcoming vote. But Khamenei's censure of the foreign minister is likely to dismiss any such ambitions, as the Guardian Council, a body of senior clerics and legal experts that serves under Khamenei, vets candidates for office. Zarif has insisted he doesn't want to run.

WORLD BRIEFS

China's carrier group conducts exercises in South China Sea

BEIJING (AP)—China's Shandong aircraft carrier group has recently conducted routine annual exercises in the South China Sea, the People's Liberation Army said Sunday, after Beijing criticized the U.S. for sending Navy ships into the strategic area. The Chinese Defense Ministry last week urged the U.S. to restrain its front-line forces in the air and seas near China. U.S. reconnaissance aircraft and warships have become more active around China since President Biden took office, it said. The South China Sea is particularly contentious because China's smaller neighbors also have competing claims to one of the world's busiest sea lanes, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety. China has constructed several man-made islands in the disputed waters in what the U.S. says is a move to militarize the area. Navy spokesperson Gao Xiucheng said in a statement that the exercises were completely legitimate and part of safeguarding national sovereignty, security

and development interests, as well as maintaining regional peace and stability. "We hope the outside world will view it in an objective and rational way. In the future, the Chinese navy will continue to hold similar exercises as planned," said Gao. The Shandong is the second Chinese aircraft carrier to enter service after the Liaoning, which was originally purchased as a hulk from Ukraine and entirely refurbished.

Lebanon detains 2 suspected of drug smuggling to Saudi

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanese authorities have arrested two brothers suspected of smuggling drugs in pomegranate shipments to Saudi Arabia, leading the kingdom to ban Lebanese fruits and vegetables, the outgoing interior minister said Sunday. Mohamed Fehmi told local MTV television station during a tour to the Lebanon-Syria border that Interpol is also following a third suspect. He gave no further details, saying only that the case is still under investigation. In late April, Saudi Arabia announced it had seized

over 5 million pills of the amphetamine Captagon hidden in a shipment of pomegranates coming from Lebanon. Fehmi said that 2,000 pomegranates out of about 80,000 in the shipment were filled with Captagon pills. "It is very difficult to find them without scanners," Fehmi said. Asked if the militant Hezbollah group is involved, Fehmi said that according to his security information, they were not. The United States had accused Hezbollah in the past of being involved in the drugs trade. The militant group strongly denies such charges. The ban by Saudi Arabia came as Lebanon is undergoing its worst economic crisis in its history. While Saudi Arabia has been a major supporter of Lebanon, the kingdom has also been locked in a regional struggle with Iran, the main ally of the powerful Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Tension between the two regional powerhouses have often spilled into a deadlock in decision-making in Lebanese politics. Saudi Arabia is among the Gulf countries that imposed sanctions on Hezbollah.

In Celebration of His New Life

†AMBROSE D. PUSHPARAJ

aka: "Elvis"

Born to life on October 15, 1950
Called to his eternal home on April 28, 2021

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Cynthia Cruz Pushparaj
Parents: †Kamala Antony, †Ambrose Doraiswamy
Parents-in-law: †Ana Terlaje Cogure,
†Francisco Masga Delacruz
Children: Jimmy Ruiz,
Ivan Ruiz,
Kamala Ann Pushparaj,
Lisa Marie Pushparaj
Grandchildren: Jayanna Barclisa Ruiz,
Loki James Ambrose P. Ito,
Lucas Caleb P. Ito
Brothers & Sisters:
Xavier & Sheela Murray (Tony, Rajesh)
†Rani & †Harri Jairam (Mahendra, Indra, Jayendran & Norma, Anita)
Bharthi & Marcel Rodrigues (Nishanth, Gulu)
†Regina & †Lewis Ratnam (Nirmal, Madhumita)
Antony & Joyce Glad (Sweeda, Klein, Kevin)
Brother & Sisters-in-law:
†Alice & †Roger Galang and children
Josephine Delacruz and children
Lourdes & Robert Lloyd and child
Bernadita & Jim Clevenger and children
Francisco Delacruz
†Julie Delacruz
Lucia & Ben Torres and children
Joseph & Virginia Delacruz and children
Joaquin Cruz and child
Erokolano & Mary Ann Delacruz and children
Rudy & Rheeta Delacruz and child.

Daily Mass is being held at San Vicente Parish on Monday, Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 6:00 a.m., 1st Friday at 6:00 p.m., 1st Saturday at 6:00 a.m., Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., and Sundays at 6:00 & 9:00 a.m.

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, his remains will be escorted from the CHC morgue at 7:30 a.m. to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Responso and public viewing will take place at 8-10:00 a.m. followed by mass at 10:00 a.m.

Thank You and Si Yu'us M'ase
Cynthia C. Pushparaj, children, & family

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Jeep goes green with arrival of the 2021 Jeep Wrangler 4xe plug-in hybrid

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service
(TNS)

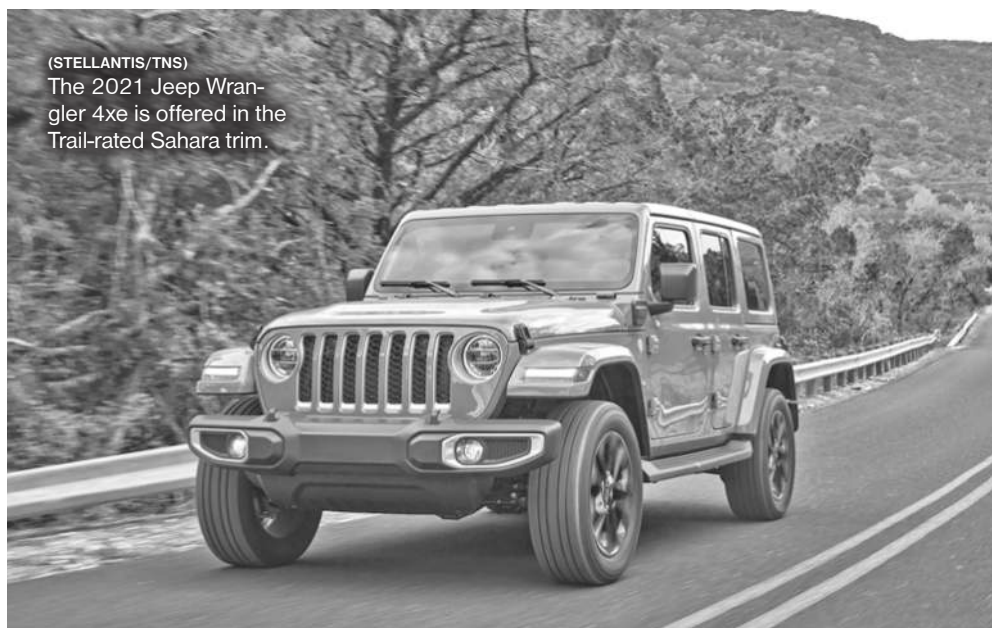
AUSTIN, Texas—In a world where the unthinkable now seems commonplace, Jeep has gone and given the iconic Wrangler a serious dose of green cred in the form of the hybrid-electric Wrangler 4xe (four-by-E), to be followed by a Jeep Grand Cherokee 4xe later this year.

“We’ve made the commitment to be the greenest SUV brand,” said Jim Morrison, head of the Jeep brand during the model’s initial test drive last week.

But the question remains, is it a real Jeep Wrangler? Putting it through its paces at Inks Ranch in Llano, Texas, the answer is an unqualified yes.

So what’s different?

Offered in Trail-rated Sahara and Rubicon trim the Wrangler 4xe’s differences start when you approach the driver’s door. There, perched next to it on the fender, is the plug to recharge the 400-volt, 17-kWh, 96-cell lithium-ion battery pack, a chore that requires a mere two hours with a 240-volt outlet, or an endless 12 hours using 110 volts. This nets you 21 miles of pure EV driving, enough to cover most Americans commute for those of you who still have one. Looking around the vehicle, the only other hint that you’re driving the hybrid is the Wrangler’s light blue tow hooks. Inside, to make room for the battery pack (which is totally submersible in water), the rear seat is bumped up a few inches, although it still folds.



(STELLANTIS/TNS)
The 2021 Jeep Wrangler 4xe is offered in the Trail-rated Sahara trim.

But there are differences you can’t see, such the Jeep Wrangler 4xe’s powertrain. It consists of two electric motors; one acts as the starter/alternator while the second mates to the eight-speed automatic transmission, which lacks a torque converter. They’re paired to a turbocharged 2.0-liter double-overhead-cam four-cylinder engine, used in the wrangler since 2018, and an eight-speed automatic transmission that produces 375 horsepower and 470 pound-feet of torque. Only the V-8-powered Wrangler 392, rated at 470 horsepower, is more powerful.

One powerful Wrangler

Once you try the 4xe, you may not miss the 392’s extra juice; 0-60 mph takes a mere six seconds, although it feels faster. The instant

torque that its electric motors provide make the Wrangler 4xe a kick to drive in civilization, which is typically not a Wrangler’s strong point. The 4xe’s electric power funnels directly through the clutch to the wheels, so there’s no delay waiting for the torque converter in the transmission to shift. The hybrid driveline and its added weight, most of it low in the chassis, provides an unexpected benefit; the Wrangler 4xe feels surprisingly planted at high speeds, something you’d never say of its siblings.

In addition, the driveline can be fine-tuned using the hybrid driving mode, a pure electric driving mode or an E-Save driving mode. The first two are self-explanatory; the third shuts off the electric motors to save the juice for when you need it.

Like other hybrids, you can adjust the brake regeneration, which captures energy generated while decelerating. Set to max, it allows for one pedal driving, maximizing fuel efficiency. And despite not using a brake pedal, the brake lights come on if deceleration is strong enough.

And don’t be fooled by the EPA ratings of 20 mpg in combined highway mode; an hour-and-a-half mix of city/suburban/highway driving west of Austin, without any attempt to hyper-mile, returned 25 mpg—not bad for a vehicle with the aerodynamics of a brick. Yet it can tow up to 3,500 pounds and ford 30 inches of water.

An electrifying off-road romp

Despite these numbers, it’s still understandable why you

might doubt the Wrangler 4xe’s abilities; hybrids aren’t known as off-road warriors—until now. It offers the extreme four-wheel-drive capability Jeeps are known for, but with an unusual twist. Despite the 4xe’s off-the-line liveliness, it’s another story when rock crawling, particularly in electric-only mode. The Wrangler’s other powertrains lack the sensitivity that 4xe’s provides; throttle response is ideal, affording confidence in the trickiest of situations, like the 32-degree departure angle down the side of a rock that the 4xe dispatched with ease. Forging a stream seemed like second nature, despite all of those EV components buried under its skin. Yet nothing prepares you for how quiet this rig really is. You can hear the water swirl as you make your way down the stream, or the tires crunch as they move across the fauna, or the birds singing when you come to a stop. Yes, you can hear the suspension doing its work as well; in EV mode, there’s no gas engine to mask the noise. It’s magical.

The rest of the story

Otherwise, the Wrangler 4xe is very much like any other Jeep. The question becomes, does it pencil?

Consider that the Wrangler 4xe starts at \$47,995 for the Sahara and \$51,695 for a Rubicon before a \$7,500 federal tax credit. Once you figure it in, and add the \$1,495 destination charge, the 4Xe Sahara costs \$41,990 before options, while the 4xe Rubicon costs \$45,690. That’s a difference of \$1,325 and \$1,475 respectively compared to their standard versions. Yet the EPA states that the cost to fuel the 4xe over five years will save you a mere \$1,000, meaning it will take you 6.6 to 7.4 years before you’ll see any additional fuel economy savings. Make the most of its EV mode, however, and the savings could come sooner.

Nevertheless, the 2021 Jeep Wrangler 4xe is about more than its monetary savings; it’s about burning less fuel, something that only adds to its off-road athleticism.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Jeep Wrangler 4xe Rubicon

- Base price: \$51,695 (before \$7,500 federal tax credit)
- Horsepower/Torque: 375/470 pound-feet
- EPA rating (combined): 20 mpg (gas), 49 MPGe (gas+electric)
- Observed fuel economy: 25 mpg
- Fuel required: 91 Octane

- Length/Width/Height: 188.4/73.8/73.5 inches
- Ground clearance: 10.8 inches
- Approach/breakover/departure angles: 43.8°/22.5°/35.6°
- Towing capacity: 3,500 pounds
- Cargo capacity: 27.7-67.4 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 5,222 pounds

Motormouth: Which oil for moped?

Q: I recently was gifted a 1979 Negrini moped. It has a 49cc, two-cycle engine. After some extensive cleaning it appears to be in good condition. The owner’s manual calls for the gas oil mix to use 20 weight motor oil. (20 weight is also used in the transmission). I have not been able to locate a source for straight 20 weight motor oil. I have concern about using any other type or weight of oil in the gas mix, because of plug fouling or engine seize. Can you offer a suggestion for source of 20 weight or a comparison chart of current two-cycle oil equivalents?

—M.B., Easton, Pennsylvania

A: Just like the return of

cicadas in the spring, bikes abound. I had to look up Negrini before I could attempt an answer. Since I still couldn’t, I turned to an expert chemist, Tom Wicks, who has created stuff and consulted for several well-known engine products companies. Tom states that two-cycle oil is fine for the engine and automatic transmission fluid would be best for the gearbox. The engine’s spark plugs, piston rings and exhaust ports may carbon up from 20 weight oil. Any two-stroke, air-cooled, chainsaw oil at a 20:1 ratio is fine. Ace hardware carries a synthetic two-stroke oil that keeps things clean. “The 1979 Negrini moped could probably easily run on old French fry vegetable oil,” joked Wicks.

Q: I have a 2017 VW Turbo Jetta. I always service the car at the dealer where I bought it. I am scheduled for my next service on May 15, 2021, when my estimated mileage will be 60,000. I am currently at just under 55,000 miles. Obviously, I won’t reach 60,000 miles unless I drive to New York and back twice from Florida. So, my question is, do I take it in based on the date or the mileage?

—B.G., Boca Raton, Florida

A: Oil change intervals are disappearing in favor of mileage intervals and service reminder lights. For most other motorized devices such as airplanes, maintenance is based on hours of operation, so a car’s mileage roughly

correlates to time of operation. Many service facilities still give owners reminders based on time but check your manual’s maintenance schedule. The reminder on your instrument panel will tell you when it is time to do an oil change.

Q: Your recent article regarding a Ford Escape battery not staying charged, and being repeatedly replaced, may have to do with the battery sensor, located on the negative terminal. It tends to corrode and not allow the vehicle to properly charge, even if the battery is new. My son’s 2013 had the same problem. Ford diagnosed the sensor as bad, and the battery has been good since.

—K.D., Chicago

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber’s work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



A: You reminded me of an important point. Many vehicles, not just Fords, have battery sensors to provide information to the body control module (BCM). The module uses the input for many systems as well as to determine the battery state of charge to activate the alternator and even to control the stop-start

systems if the battery gets low. The systems even know when the battery is getting weak from age. Dirty and corroded terminals are the most common problems. Look for the connector at the negative battery terminal, but some makes put it on the positive post and others even use one on both terminals.

Life & Style

Former reality TV star Josh Duggar faces child porn charges

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Former reality TV star Josh Duggar faces charges of downloading and possessing child pornography under a federal indictment unsealed Friday.

Federal prosecutors announced the indictment a day after Duggar was arrested by U.S. Marshals in northwest Arkansas. Prosecutors said Duggar possessed the mate-

rial, some of which depicts the sexual abuse of children under the age of 12, in May 2019.

Duggar, 33, pleaded not guilty at a hearing Friday. His attorneys said they planned to defend his case “aggressively and thoroughly.”

“In this country, no one can stop prosecutors from charging a crime,” the attorneys said in a statement. “But when you’re accused, you can fight

back in the courtroom—and that is exactly what Josh intends to do.”

A federal judge set a May 5 detention hearing and a July 6 trial date.

Duggar starred on TLC’s “19 Kids and Counting” until it was pulled from the network in 2015 over revelations Duggar had molested four of his sisters and a babysitter. Duggar’s parents said he had

confessed to the fondling and apologized.

Duggar previously apolo-

gized for a pornography addiction and cheating on his wife.

If convicted, Duggar faces

up to 20 years of imprisonment and fines up to \$250,000 on each count.

Two arrested after trespassing near Prince Andrew’s home

LONDON (AP)—Police have arrested two people after receiving a report of trespassers near the home of Britain’s Prince Andrew, the second-oldest son of Queen Elizabeth II.

Thames Valley Police said a 29-year-old woman and a 31-year-old man, both from London, were arrested after a report of intruders on the grounds of the Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park on April 25. Police said there was

no risk to anyone at the lodge, Andrew’s official residence.

Police were also called to the Royal Lodge on April 19.

The Sun newspaper reported that during the earlier incident, a 43-year-old woman spent 20 minutes on the grounds of the lodge after telling security guards she was having lunch with the monarch’s son.

The woman managed to get into the home, but was detained after asking a mem-

ber of staff where Andrew was and saying that she was his fiancée, the newspaper said. Thames Valley Police said the woman was detained under the Mental Health Act.

Andrew shares the home with his former wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York.

Andrew, 61, has largely kept out of the public eye since 2019 amid controversy over his friendship with the late American convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Germany to return Benin Bronzes looted during colonial era

BERLIN (AP)—Germany is returning hundreds of artifacts known as the Benin Bronzes that were mostly looted from West Africa by a British colonial expedition and subsequently sold to collections around the world, including German museums, authorities said Friday.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas welcomed a deal reached with museums and authorities in Nigeria to work on a restitution plan for a substantial number of artifacts, calling it a “turning point in dealing with our colonial history.”

Germany’s minister for culture, Monika Gruetters, said the Benin Bronzes were a key test for the way the country deals with its colonial past.

“We are confronting our historic and moral responsibility,” she said.

Gruetters said the goal is to contribute to “understanding and reconciliation” with the descendants of those whose cultural treasures were stolen in colonial times. The first returns are planned for next year, she said.

A historian welcomed the plans, but said they don’t go far enough.

“Sadly, there is neither a precise time plan nor an unconditional commitment to retribute all looted artifacts,” said Juergen Zimmerer, professor of global history at the University of Hamburg.

He also noted it’s not yet clear how many objects will be returned, or whether there will be any recognition of the efforts by civil society groups that had called for the restitution.

A British colonial expedition looted vast numbers of treasures from the royal palace of the Kingdom of Benin in 1897, including numerous bas-reliefs and sculptures.

While hundreds of artifacts ended up in the British Museum, hundreds were also sold to other collections such as the Ethnological Museum in Berlin, which has one of the world’s largest collection of historical objects from the Kingdom of Benin, estimated to include about 530 items, including 440 bronzes.

The British Museum

doesn’t currently have plans to return parts of its collection.

“The devastation and plunder wreaked upon Benin City during the British military expedition in 1897 is fully acknowledged,” the British Museum said in a statement, adding that the circumstances around the acquisition of Benin objects is explained in gallery panels and on its website.

“We believe the strength of the British Museum collection resides in its breadth and depth, allowing millions of visitors an understanding of the cultures of the world and how they interconnect over time—whether through trade, migration, conquest or peaceful exchange,” it said.

But Zimmerer, who has done extensive historical research on the Benin Bronzes, said the decision by Germany would likely affect the wider debate about how institutions in former colonial countries should handle such artifacts.

“The pressure will grow, because the British position of simply not addressing the issue of restitution is no longer sustainable,” he said.

New stage in Rome’s Colosseum will restore majestic view

ROME (AP)—A project to build a high-tech, lightweight stage inside the Roman Colosseum will allow visitors a central viewpoint from within the ancient structure “to see the majesty of the monument,” Italy’s culture minister said Sunday.

Dario Franceschini announced a 18.5 million euro (\$22 million) contract to build and install the retractable structure that will restore the traditional “arena,” or stage for combat for gladiatorial shows in ancient Rome.

The stage was original to the first-century amphitheater and existed until the 1800s when it was removed for archaeological digs on the subterranean levels of the ancient structure, Franceschini said.

The project should be completed by 2023. The mobile system will be able to quickly cover or uncover the underground structures below, to both protect them from rain or allow



In this April 26, 2021 file photo, few visitors arrive for their tour of the ancient Colosseum, in Rome. AP

them to be aired out. The project is reversible, meaning it can be removed if plans for the Colosseum change in the future.

The new stage will allow visitors to stand in the center and view the Colosseum’s vaulted walls as they would have been seen by gladiators in ancient Rome. It also will permit the staging of cultural events that are respectful of

the Colosseum as a symbol of Italy, Franceschini said.

The Colosseum reopened to the public last week after a 41-day closure because of rolling pandemic restrictions. Officials have set up a one-way itinerary as part of safety measures, and visitors are limited to 1,260 a day, compared with as many as 25,000 a day in 2019, pre-pandemic.

Overbearing boyfriend ruins family get-togethers

DEAR ABBY: We get our children and grandchildren together twice a year. Our oldest daughter is divorced and, unfortunately, has a significant other the rest of our family cannot stand. He’s an arrogant, competitive know-it-all.

We have been around him only twice—the last two times the family got together. The second time was a disaster for the rest of us. Should we tell her we don’t want to invite him this year, and how do we say it? Or should we not tell her?

TENTATIVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR TENTATIVE: Talk to your daughter about this. When you do, have handy a list of the ways he offended your family members at the gathering. Her significant other may be so self-centered he doesn’t realize he’s being obnoxious.

Ask her to ask him to dial back his need to compete, impress, cover for his own insecurity—whatever drives him. Then give him one more chance. If that fails, do not invite him again, and tell her why. You can always see your daughter separately, I assume, and so can her siblings.

DEAR ABBY: I had a relationship with a wonderful woman for almost six years. During the course of our relationship, I purchased a rather expensive precious stone—exactly what she wanted—with the intent of giving it to her as a promise

ring. (Neither of us are fans of the institution of marriage.) We have since gone our separate ways, but we still communicate.

Because it was purchased for her, I am tempted to give her the stone. At the same time, I have entertained the notion of keeping it and giving it to my future life partner, should I meet someone I care for that deeply. Your guidance would be greatly appreciated.

ROMANCING THE STONE

DEAR ROMANCING: Promise rings symbolize the promise of a proposal of marriage. In the case of your former girlfriend, it didn’t pan out. Because the two of you still communicate, why not mention to her that you have the stone and ask if she would like to have it. If she says no, you can always offer it to someone else, although I can’t promise the lady will be eager to receive a souvenir of a failed relationship.

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine has a 70-pound dog that behaves badly. When I visit her, it sprints out of the front door, barking, and jumps on my car. It has left 3 1/2-inch-long deep scratches on two of my vehicles. She yells at it, and eventually the dog stops, but not before jumping on me and leaving me muddled and snagged.

This friend is due to have a baby, and I am sure she will be inviting me over to meet the baby soon. How can I avoid further

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



damage to my car and clothing without damaging my friendship?
ASSAULTED IN AUSTIN

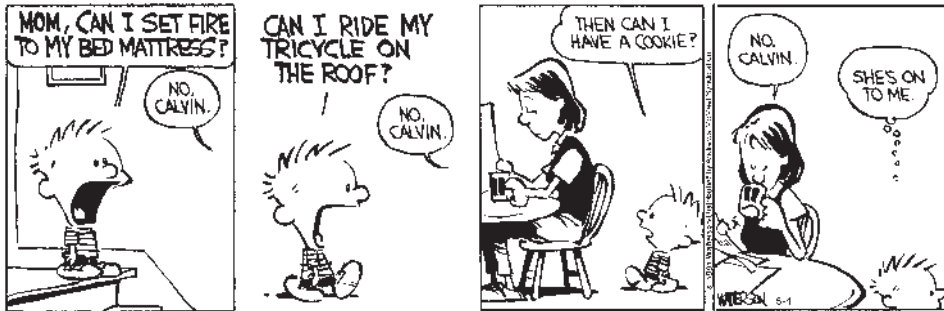
DEAR ASSAULTED: The obvious answer is to find the courage to tell your friend you are willing to visit only if she confines her dog so it won’t cause further damage to you and your property. And while you are at it, mention that you are concerned about her baby’s safety. Her dog’s lack of discipline poses a distinct danger to her defenseless and vulnerable little one.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Prometheus" actor Idris
5 Some coll. degrees
8 Jug handles
12 Property claim
13 Inventor Whitney
14 Opening day?
15 Unconventionally stylish, to the max
17 Sweet wine
18 PC key
19 Fern seeds
21 Daily Planet reporter Kent
24 Helps
25 Moth variety
26 Lively parties
30 "Evil Woman" band
31 Los —, California

DOWN

32 Diner dessert
33 Purpose part
35 Body powder
36 Decomposes
37 Reacts to yeast
38 Diocese
41 Lay down the lawn
42 Nobel Prize subj.
43 Specialized drag racer
48 Sleep like —
49 Dos Passos trilogy
50 — Major

DOWN

1 Santa's helper
2 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
3 Oscar winner
4 Turkey's capital
5 Borscht
6 Gore and Green
7 Audits, as a class
8 Make public
9 Cupid's specialty
10 Scarce
11 Bygone fliers
16 Sort
20 Sharable PC files
21 Staff leader?
22 Humdinger
23 Unsigned (Abbr.)
24 Ones for the road?
26 Loyal
27 Relaxing resorts
28 Scrabble piece
29 Brief moments
31 Classic Pontiacs
34 Cower
35 Neaten
37 Harry Potter pal
38 Bell sound
39 Rights org.
40 Castle
41 Hose woe
44 Exploit
45 —
46 Enzyme suffix
47 Squealer

Solution time: 22 mins.

T	U	B	A	T	A	R	C	A	B
A	M	O	S	U	S	A	N	O	R
U	P	T	O	S	N	F	F	O	N
W	I	L	I	T	E	N	D	E	R
R	E	C	E	S	S	S	R	D	S
O	A	R	T	I	A	S	A	T	I
T	R	E	E	A	D	V	H	U	L
C	L	A	R	A	S	E	C	F	I
J	E	P	S	E	N	G	P	A	
A	B	U	M	O	V	I	E	B	U
D	E	F	I	C	T	E	H	F	L
A	R	F	C	H	E	S	S	O	U

Yesterday's answer 5-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shameik Moore, 26; Erin Andrews, 43; Will Arnett, 51; Randy Travis, 62.

Happy Birthday: Use your charm, maintain a steady pace and refuse to let what others do confuse you. You have to look out for your interests instead of worrying about what others think or do. Put your energy where it counts; it will bring you comfort and joy. Personal improvement will boost your confidence and encourage better overall results this year. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 26, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take advantage of any opportunity to talk to someone who is doing something you want to pursue. The information you receive will be valuable and put you in touch with someone who can help you get ahead. Discipline will pay off. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do and spend only what's necessary. Live within your means, and promise what is feasible. Put your energy where it counts, and be innovative when handling administrative or work-related matters. Physical activity will ease stress, and romance is favored. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of your responsibilities to avoid backlash. A steady pace forward will override anyone's attempt to make you look bad. Keep everything in perspective; if you exaggerate, someone will question your validity. Don't take an unnecessary health risk. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Show everyone how original you are by presenting your ideas with pizzazz. A little extra

oomph will set you apart from any competition you encounter. You can make a difference if you are steadfast, wise and take the initiative. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Too much of anything will lead to a loss. Get your priorities straight, and don't feel the need to buy love, friendship or support. Trust in your ability to get things done and forge ahead. Intelligence coupled with drive will help you excel. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a proactive approach to get things done. Talk is cheap if you don't follow through. Be direct, make your move and reach your target with the least amount of dialogue. You will be satisfied with your accomplishments. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do something you enjoy, but don't be excessive. It's essential to keep the peace and live up to your promises. Discipline and hard work will bring you the highest returns. Learn from the experience you have gained over the years. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Extravagance will lead to stress, overreaction and problems with people affected by the decisions you make. Put your energy into clearing up unfinished financial, emotional or health issues, and it will eliminate stress and the difficulties you face. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll get a glimpse of the big picture if you take a step back, reorganize and adjust your plans accordingly. Trust in yourself, not someone trying to manipulate you. Formulate your strategies, then put them into action. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Push for what you want and believe in, and you will transform the way you live and the direction you take. It's time to eliminate what no longer works for you and move into the sunlight, where positive change can occur. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll get ahead if you think matters through and use your discipline and innovative ideas to reach your goal. Refuse to let what others do interfere with your plans. Don't take risks with your health. Avoid large crowds. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your charm will be hard to resist, but if you try to take advantage of someone, you will eventually pay the price. Do what's best and fair for everyone involved in your plans. Equality will be necessary if you want to get your way. ***
Birthday Baby: You are flexible, imaginative and persistent. You are curious and tireless.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		5		8		6			
	1						7		
	7		9		6		1		
		1				5			
8			2	9	3			7	
		3				9			
	9		7		5		3		
	6						2		
		2		4		7			

Difficulty Level ★★

5/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	2	4	3	9	1	5	6
4	6	5	8	7	1	3	2	9
3	9	1	2	6	5	8	4	7
6	4	7	1	8	3	5	9	2
2	3	8	5	9	7	4	6	1
5	1	9	6	4	2	7	8	3
9	2	4	7	1	8	6	3	5
1	8	3	9	5	6	2	7	4
7	5	6	3	2	4	9	1	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SAMSUNG PRODUCTS

Solution: 6 letters

F R D N U O S R E C N W A S H
E I E A I D E M E A E B T U
S L N G N M O L D M V V O N B
R C E A R H B E O E O O U S
E A T C N A T S E R O T K O R
T S K I T C H E N A B S E M E
U E I R E R I C R H S A L F G
P S O N E R E C O N V E C T I O N
M P N Y T V I N G H B L Y V I
O O R A E E Y O I D U A A L F
C D E R C X R P F C L C T O E
U E S T A T S N R S U F L E X
R M F L I P I L A U N D R Y S
V A A U O L E V M L D E E P S
E G S M A R T S E P O T P A L

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Active, Audio, Book, Camera, Cases, Charger, Chips, Computers, Connected, Convection, Covers, Curve, Dryer, Electronic, Financing, Finger, Flash, Flex, Flip, Fold, Frame, Galaxy, Game, Home, Hubs, Internal, Kitchen, Laptop, Laundry, Life, Lite, Media, Mops, Mounts, Oven, Pens, Portable, Rebates, Remote, Sero, Smart, Sound, Speed, Stands, Stove, Style, Ultra, Vacuums, Wash

Yesterday's Answer: Converted
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Antetokounmpo scores 49 points as Bucks beat Nets



MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo played how he wants to play, and it was enough to overcome a terrific effort by Kevin Durant.

Antetokounmpo scored 49 points and Khris Middleton had 26 points and 11 rebounds, leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a 117-114 victory over Durant and the Nets on Sunday.

Antetokounmpo also had eight rebounds, four assists and three blocked shots. The two-time reigning NBA MVP went 21 for 36 from the field, including a 4-for-8 performance from 3-point range.

"I've been working on a jump shot my whole life," Antetokounmpo said. "I know eventually one day it's all going to click."

"Tonight that picture I created, that's who I want to be moving forward. It doesn't matter if I score 49 points. I don't care about that. What I care about is how I slowed down, how I was able to find my teammates. How if I missed one, missed a second one, missed a third one and still be able to come down and shoot another one. This is what I believe I can be."

The Bucks (40-24) won for the third time in four games to pull within 2 1/2 games of the Nets (43-22) in the three-way battle for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Philadelphia is on top at 42-21 heading into its matchup with San Antonio on Sunday night.

Milwaukee hosts Brooklyn again on Tuesday night.

"Every day you wake up is about your craft," Durant said. "We've just got to stay locked in mentally to what we're trying to do as a group."

Durant had 42 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, but he missed a difficult fadeaway 3-pointer at the buzzer. Kyrie Irving scored 20 points, and Landry Shamet finished with 17.

Durant was 7 of 13 from 3-point range and 16 of 33 overall while playing a game-high 40 minutes.

"You've got a guy who is pretty much the same size as Giannis, with unlimited range," Middleton said. "KD is a guy who will just pull up in your face like you're not there."

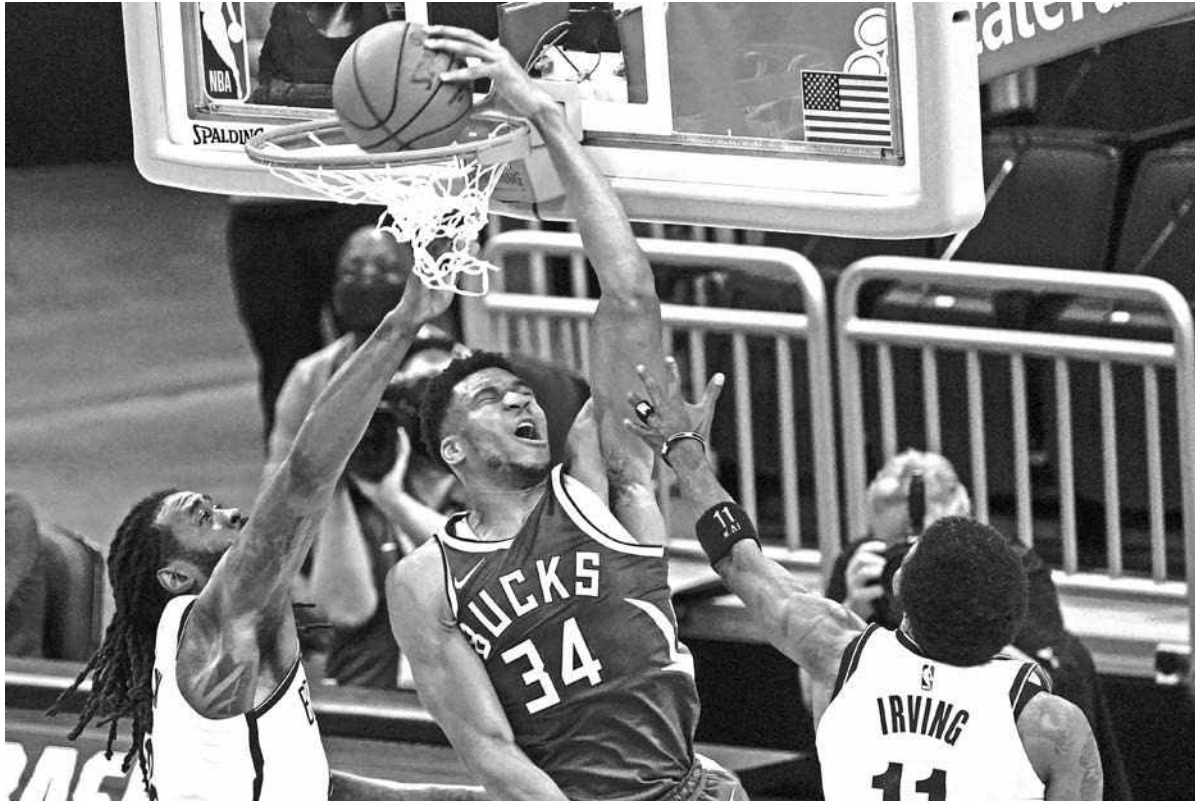
Antetokounmpo finished three points shy of his career high, set against Philadelphia in March 2019.

A slick move by Antetokounmpo gave the Bucks a 117-112 lead, and Irving answered with a layup. But Durant and Middleton traded 3-point misses before the final attempt by Durant.

"I was not going back and forth with KD," Antetokounmpo said. "There's nobody in this world who can go back and forth with him. He's one of the greatest players to ever play this game."

"You've got to be able to do it as a unit, to guard him and make it tough on him. I was just trying to do my job, get to my spot and execute and help my team win."

Jrue Holiday had 18 points for Milwaukee, and Bryn Forbes fin-



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo dunks in front of Brooklyn Nets' DeAndre Jordan during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, May 2, 2021, in Milwaukee.

ished with 12.

Antetokounmpo scored the Bucks' first 16 points of the third quarter, and his personal streak stopped when he passed to Forbes for a 3-pointer. He had 18 points in the third, and the game was tied at 90 heading to the fourth.

Durant lifted the Nets with 13 points in the quarter, including three 3-pointers.

Heat 121, Hornets 111

In Charlotte, N.C., the NBA playoffs are approaching and the defending Eastern Conference champion Miami Heat are starting to play like it.

Bam Adebayo had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Jimmy Butler added 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, and the surging Heat easily defeated the Charlotte Hornets 121-111 on Sunday night to move into sole possession of sixth place in the conference.

Miami's win combined with Boston's 129-119 loss to the Portland Trail Blazers leaves the Heat (35-30) a full game ahead of the Celtics with seven games remaining.

That's significant because the team that finishes in sixth automatically qualifies for the playoffs, while the teams that finish in seventh through 10th place must earn their way into the postseason via the play-in tournament.

"You want to be playing your best basketball at the right time and I'm praying, I'm hoping that right now is the right time for us to be playing our best basketball," Butler said.

Kendrick Nunn added 19 points and Goran Dragic had 18 for the Heat, who've won four of their last five.

P.J. Washington had 21 points on 9-of-13 shooting for the Hornets (31-33), while rookie LaMelo Ball finished with 14 points, six rebounds and five assists in his second game back from a broken wrist.

Raptors 121, Lakers 114

In Los Angeles, Kyle Lowry had 37 points and 11 assists, Pascal Siakam had 39 points and 13 rebounds and the short-handed Toronto Raptors defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 121-114 on Sunday night.

LeBron James had 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists before going back to the locker room with 6:42 to play. It was the second game back for James after missing 20 because of a sprained right ankle.

Toronto ended a three-game losing streak despite not having Fred VanVleet, OG Anunoby, Chris Boucher or Gary Trent Jr. available because of injuries or to rest after losing at Utah on Saturday.

DeAndre' Bembry had 14 points off the bench and the Raptors led by as many as 21 to hand the defending NBA champion Lakers another baffling defeat.

Kyle Kuzma had 24 points for Los Angeles, Anthony Davis chipped in with 12 and Andre Drummond had 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Kings 111, Mavericks 99

In Dallas, Luka Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks simply couldn't figure out the also-ran Sacramento Kings this season.

It remains to be seen how that will affect the playoff positioning for the Mavericks, who now have to worry about their superstar being one technical foul from a one-game suspension after his 15th of the season.

Buddy Hield scored 27 points, Marvin Bagley III had 23 points and nine rebounds and Sacramento beat Dallas 111-99 on Sunday night, giving the Kings a season sweep of the Mavericks.

All three games were in a span of 15 days, which Dallas finished with a 6-0 record against the other teams while going 0-3 for the second time in three seasons against the Kings.

Doncic scored 30 points before

getting ejected in the final minute after his second technical foul in another game without European sidekick Kristaps Porzingis, who is battling right knee soreness.

Suns 123, Thunder 120

In Oklahoma City, Devin Booker scored 32 points, and the Phoenix Suns held off the Oklahoma City Thunder 123-120 on Sunday night.

Former Thunder guard Chris Paul had 18 points and 11 assists, and Torrey Craig added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who shot 54%. Phoenix entered the night one-half game behind Utah for the best record in the Western Conference.

Phoenix led 119-103 with 3:29 remaining before the Thunder closed the game on a 17-4 run. Oklahoma City was coming off a 152-95 loss to the Indiana Pacers on Saturday night, the worst home loss in NBA history.

"It is what it is," Paul said. "At this point in the season, you're trying to pile up wins. It wasn't our prettiest game, it wasn't the prettiest finish. Them guys are probably just like us. They knew they was going to come out with a lot of pride after that game last night. We got the win and we're going to move on."

Darius Bazley had 19 points and nine rebounds and Theo Maledon added 18 points for the Thunder, who have lost 20 of 22.

Trail Blazers 129, Celtics 119

In Boston, CJ McCollum scored 10 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and Portland held on for a 129-119 win over the Boston Celtics on Sunday night, extending the Trail Blazers' winning streak to four.

Damian Lillard had 26 points and 13 assists for Portland. Carmelo Anthony finished with 13 points — including a 3-pointer with 1:08 remaining to help seal it after Boston pulled within two points.

The Trail Blazers improved to

4-0 on their six-game road trip. They entered the game in seventh in the Western Conference playoff standings and are trying to work their way out of the play-in round.

"I think we're playing better basketball at the right time," McCollum said. "Understanding the severity of each game — what we need to accomplish heading into the playoffs and what we need to accomplish to get into the playoffs is very important."

Jayson Tatum scored 33 to lead Boston, which is trying to avoid falling into the play-in round in the final weeks of the season.

Knicks 122, Rockets 97

In Houston, Julius Randle scored 31 points in three quarters to lead the New York Knicks to a 122-97 victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday night.

Randle, who had seven rebounds and six assists, scored 15 points in the third quarter to pad the lead and spent the fourth quarter on the bench with the game out of reach.

"We turned it up I the second half," Randle said. "Made good plays, defense tightened up and we busted the game open."

It was the 11th victory in 12 games for the Knicks and the seventh loss in eight games for the Rockets, who have the NBA's worst record at 16-49.

New York also beat Houston in the first meeting this season on Feb. 13 to win the season series for the first time since 2002-03. It's just the second win for the Knicks in Houston in 16 trips, with the last one coming on Nov. 21, 2015.

76ers 113, Spurs 111

In San Antonio, Joel Embiid had 34 points and 12 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers held on to beat the undermanned San Antonio Spurs 113-111 in overtime Sunday night.

Ben Simmons tipped in the game-winner off a miss from Embiid as time expired. Embiid had four points in overtime, all on free throws.

"I knew Joel was going to get a good look," Simmons said. "We trust him with those shots. I was just there to clean it up."

Seth Curry scored 22 points and Dwight Howard added 14 as Philadelphia won its fourth straight to remain atop the Eastern Conference. Simmons finished with five points, six rebounds and five assists in 35 minutes.

Lonnie Walker IV had 23 points to lead the Spurs, who lost their third straight. Keldon Johnson added 19 points, Rudy Gay had 18 and Gorgui Dieng 17.

San Antonio was without four starters as Dejounte Murray and Derrick White missed the game due to injuries and DeMar DeRozan and Jakob Poeltl sat out for rest.

"I am just really excited for how hard we are playing," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "I just hope they continue to believe in themselves because they have had kind of a tough road."

Pete Alonso helps Mets top Phillies for wild 8-7 win



MILWAUKEE (AP)—Pete Alonso

capped New York's six-run eighth inning with a three-run double, and the Mets used a defensive meltdown by Philadelphia and a replay reversal to beat the Phillies 8-7 on Sunday night.

Michael Conforto snapped a tie with a bases-loaded walk against José Alvarado, driving in Jose Peraza, and Alonso followed with a liner off David Hale that split the gap in right-center for an 8-4 lead.

Philadelphia got a run back in the ninth on Roman Quinn's RBI triple. After a Matt Joyce walk, Rhys Hoskins hit an opposite-field drive off Edwin Díaz that was initially ruled a tying three-run homer first base umpire Jose Navas.

A replay review showed the ball hit the top railing of the fence on the out-of-town scoreboard in right, never clearing the wall itself. Hoskins was placed at second with a two-run double.

Díaz then departed with an injury and Jeurys Familia struck out Bryce Harper on a high fast-ball, earning his first save.

Didi Gregorius and Andrew McCutchen homered for Philadelphia, and Hoskins had two hits and two RBIs. But Hoskins also had a memorable defensive miscue that led to a run for New York.

Brandon Kintzler (1-1) got the loss. Jacob Barnes (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Dodgers 16, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, A.J. Pollock drove in eight runs and Matt Beaty knocked in seven for Los Angeles, with both players hitting early grand slams in a startling power show.

Pollock homered twice and doubled while Beaty went 4 for 6 and scored three times. Their slams came against Alec Bettinger (0-1), who gave up 11 runs in his big league debut.

This was the first time in franchise history that the Dodgers had two players with at least seven RBIs in the same game. The last time it happened for any major league team was on Aug. 22, 2007, when Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Ramon Vazquez each had seven RBIs for Texas in a 30-3 blowout of Baltimore.

Chris Taylor scored five runs, going 3 for 3 for the Dodgers. Julio Urias (4-0) allowed one run in seven innings.

Jacob Nottingham hit two homers for the Brewers, who reacquired him from Seattle earlier in the day.

Yankees 2, Tigers 0

In New York, Corey Kluber handcuffed Detroit batters to



earn his 100th career win with his most dominant performance since 2018, and New York completed its first series sweep this season.

Kluber (2-2) looked like the pitcher who won AL Cy Young Awards with Cleveland in 2014 and 2017, before injuries wrecked his 2019 and 2020 seasons.

The 35-year-old right-hander allowed two hits in eight innings. He struck out 10 and walked one.

Aroldis Chapman struck out two in a perfect ninth that included Detroit's lone flyout, remaining perfect in six save chances.

Detroit has lost five straight and 10 of 11, dropping to a major league-worst 8-21. The Tigers are batting a big league-low .195.

Nationals 3, Marlins 1

In Washington, Max Scherzer delivered in a hurry, tossing a five-hitter to lead Washington over Miami. The three-time Cy Young Award winner hustled out of Nationals Park after a game that took only 2 hours, 37 minutes, dashing to be with wife Erica for the birth of their third child.

Scherzer (2-2) carried a shutout into the ninth inning before Isan Díaz led off with a home run. The right-hander struck out nine without a walk.

Ryan Zimmerman hit a three-run homer as Washington improved to .500 with its fourth straight win.

Marlins rookie Trevor Rogers (3-2) gave up three runs in five innings.

Blue Jays 7, Braves 2

In Dundedin, Fla., Marcus Semien homered and drove in four runs as Toronto finished off

a three-game sweep of Atlanta.

Blue Jays newcomer George Springer exited early with leg fatigue. He was the designated hitter for the fourth consecutive game since making his Toronto debut after being slowed by a strained oblique and quadriceps strain.

Ryan Borucki (3-1) won in relief. Ian Anderson (2-1) lasted just four innings, allowing four runs and six hits.

Atlanta catcher Travis d'Arnaud went on the 60-day injured list with a torn ligament in his left thumb.

Rays 5, Astros 4

St. Petersburg, Fla., Austin Meadows hit a three-run homer and later scored the go-ahead run on Manuel Margot's pinch-hit single in the seventh inning as Tampa Bay beat Houston.

The Rays avoided a three-game sweep in a series between the last two American League champions.

Meadows homered in the fifth to make it 3-all. With the score tied at 4 in the seventh, he was hit by a pitch from Brooks Raley (0-1) and later scored on Margot's hit.

Jeffrey Springs (2-0) got the win in relief. Diego Castillo pitched the ninth for his seventh save in nine tries.

Twins 13, Royals 4

In Minneapolis, Andrelton Simmons and Mitch Garver homered in a seven-run third inning, and rookie Alex Kirill-off went deep for the fourth time in three games as Minnesota routed Kansas City.

José Berrios (3-2) took advantage of his team's tear at the plate to win for the first time in four starts. Berrios gave up four runs and struck

out nine in six innings.

The Twins have won three of four and scored 35 runs during that stretch.

Royals starter Brad Keller was undone by the long ball and his own defense. Keller (2-3) gave up all seven runs in the third, but only two were earned after a pair of errors by third baseman Hunter Dozier.

Dozier later hit a three-run homer for the AL Central leaders.

Indians 5, White Sox 0

In Chicago, José Ramirez and Cesar Hernandez homered, Amed Rosario had three hits and Cleveland blanked Chicago.

Zach Plesac (2-3) and three relievers limited the White Sox to four hits as Cleveland took two of three in a series between AL Central foes that both made the playoffs last year. The Indians have won five of their last seven.

Chicago had won seven of nine.

Lucas Giolito (1-3) has allowed six homers in six starts. He gave up two runs — one earned — in 5 1/3 innings.

Rangers 5, Red Sox 3

In Arlington, Texas, David Dahl and Brock Holt each hit an RBI single in Texas' three-run eighth inning, and the Rangers took advantage of a costly error by Boston outfielder Alex Verdugo.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa homered to help Texas take three of four from the AL East leaders. Josh Sborz (3-1) got three outs for the win, and Ian Kennedy earned his seventh save in seven opportunities.

Xander Bogaerts had three hits for the Red Sox, including his fifth homer.

^{AP}
Los Angeles Dodgers' AJ Pollock hits a grand slam during the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers Sunday, May 2, 2021, in Milwaukee.

Nate Lowe scored on Dahl's two-out single off Adam Ottavino (2-2) that tied it at 3.

Joey Gallo and Rangers manager Chris Woodward were ejected by plate umpire Brian O'Nora in the sixth after Gallo disputed a called third strike.

Reds 13, Cubs 12, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Nick Castellanos hit a game-ending single off Craig Kimbrel (0-1) in the 10th inning to give Cincinnati a wild win over Chicago.

Castellanos finished with five hits and four RBIs against his former team, including two of the Reds' five homers. Mike Moustakas, Eugenio Suárez and Tucker Barnhart also connected.

Ryan Hendrix (2-0) got the win — fanning pinch-hitting pitcher Jake Arrieta to end the Cubs 10th.

Chicago also went deep five times, but lost for the seventh time in nine games. Kris Bryant homered twice, and Anthony Rizzo, Javier Báez and Ian Happ also went yard.

The Cubs trailed 12-8 before scoring four times with two out in the eighth, tying it when Happ belted a three-run drive off Tejay Antone.

Cardinals 3, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Carlos Martínez pitched eight marvelous innings, Harrison Bader hit an early three-run homer and St. Louis shut down Pittsburgh for a three-game sweep.

St. Louis has won seven straight against the Pirates and is 20-6 versus Pittsburgh since the start of the 2019 season. The sweep was the second in three series for the Cardinals, who have won eight of 10 overall.

Bader's home run came in the second off rookie Wil Crowe (0-1).

Martínez (2-4) allowed five hits and two walks. He struck out three and retired his final eight batters.

Alex Reyes retired the side in order in the ninth for his seventh save.

The Pirates hit into three double plays and went 0 for 8 with runners on base.

Giants 7, Padres 1

In San Diego, Kevin Gausman pitched six effective innings and scored twice, Mike Tauchman homered and drove in four runs, and San Francisco beat San Diego to prevent a

three-game sweep.

Tauchman hit a three-run shot in the third off Joe Musgrove (2-3) to help the Giants remain atop the NL West.

Gausman (2-0) kept the Padres off balance, giving up six hits and striking out six. He also reached base on a single and an error to help the offense.

Fernando Tatis Jr. homered in the first inning for San Diego.

Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 4

In Phoenix, Stephen Vogt hit a go-ahead, two-run triple, Josh Rojas and Daulton Varsho added RBI doubles and Arizona topped Colorado.

The game was tied at 4 when Josh VanMeter led off the Diamondbacks eighth with a walk. David Peralta singled with one out and Vogt followed with a drive down the right-field line. Arizona has won 10 of 13 since a 5-10 start.

Chris Devenski (1-0) won in relief. Daniel Bard (1-2) gave up all four runs in the eighth.

Athletics 7, Orioles 5

In Oakland, Calif., center fielder Ramón Laureano robbed the Orioles of the likely go-ahead run with a leaping catch in the eighth inning and then hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the bottom half to send Oakland past Baltimore.

Yusmeiro Petit (4-0) won in relief of starter Sean Manaea to help the Athletics avoid a sweep.

Trey Mancini hit a tying, two-run single in the fifth and put Baltimore ahead two innings later with an RBI single. Austin Hays had a solo homer for the Orioles.

Laureano's fifth homer came against Travis Lakins (1-2). Lou Trivino escaped trouble in the ninth for his fifth save.

A's first baseman Matt Olson returned after a three-game absence with an injury to his eye area and hit a two-run homer. Oakland won for the third time in eight games after a 13-game winning streak.

Mariners 2, Angels 0

In Seattle, Justus Sheffield shook off early control problems to allow just two hits over six innings, leading Seattle over Los Angeles.

Sheffield (2-2) and four relievers combined on a five-hitter as the Mariners won two of three in the series. Rafael Montero closed for his fourth save in eight opportunities.

Dylan Moore hit a two-out RBI single in the fourth and Mitch Haniger added a sacrifice fly an inning later.

Dylan Bundy (0-3) yielded five hits in six innings.

The Northern Marianas Islands Basketball Federation now has a new board following last month's election at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Elected as president of the NMIBF is former CNMI National Team player James Lee.

Joining Lee on the group are vice president David John Apatang, secretary Roselyn Monroy, treasurer Ethan Kwon, and board members Lia Rangamar, Keith Nabors, Clint Albert, Marilyn Lumabi, and Irish Pagarao.

Lee said that the new board,

RAYPHAND

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Umang Jones and Jayton Delacruz, and Vaiava Mercado, Rayphand, and Jambor of SIS.

For the 400m, Landin Reyes ranked first overall with a time of 1:33 followed closely by schoolmate John Paul Binghit, and Saipan Community School's Andre Guerrero. They will be joined by Jiro Quindoza, Leon Avery Galarse of Oleai Elementary School, Jayton Delacruz, Zana Palacios, and Ashton Manalo of KES, and Marq Hernandez of WSR.

Meanwhile, Agape's Danny Cheng placed first overall in the 800m championship qualifier with a time of 3:11 and will face off against schoolmates Reyviel Escarlan, Cai Benjamin, and Daniel Huang, SIS' Rayphand, Jambor, Gabriel Walsch, and Brilliant Star School's Evan Poole and Damien Camacho.

Jambor holds the lead in the 1,500m championship qualifier with a time of 7:31 and will battle it out in the championships with fellow Geckos Gabriel Walsh, Jake and Dean Duenas, Tristan Bertoncini,

Agape's Cai Benjamin, Daniel Huang, and BSS' Damien Camacho and Evan Poole.

Taking first place with the farthest distance in the long jump was Tatum Jones of KES with a distance of 3.55m. He will challenge Daniel Huang of ACS, SIS' Jambor, IMS' Jackson Koning, Jayvan Delacruz of KES, and Kastle Haberman of Saipan Community School in the championships.

Damian Sablan dominated the softball throw with a distance of 27.40m and will vie for the championship title against Leon Avery Galarse and Liam Sablan from OES, and KES' Zanthony Palacios, Justo Quittiga, and Tatum Jones.

The two-day championship event will take place on May 7 and May 8 at the Oleai Track and Field.

The May 7 championships will start at 3pm and is expected to conclude at around 6pm and will continue on to the next day, May 8, from 8am to around 11am.

The Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship is being held in coordination with Northern Marianas Athletics.

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	43	21	.672	—
x-Brooklyn	43	22	.662	½
New York	36	28	.563	7
Boston	34	31	.523	9½
Toronto	27	38	.415	16½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	35	30	.538	—
Miami	35	30	.538	—
Charlotte	31	33	.484	3½
Washington	29	35	.453	5½
Orlando	20	44	.313	14½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	40	24	.625	—
Indiana	30	33	.476	9½
Chicago	26	38	.406	14
Cleveland	21	43	.328	19
Detroit	19	45	.297	21
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
Dallas	36	28	.563	—
Memphis	32	31	.508	3½
San Antonio	31	32	.492	4½
New Orleans	29	35	.453	7
Houston	16	49	.246	20½
Northwest Division				
x-Utah	46	18	.719	—
Denver	43	21	.672	3
Portland	36	28	.563	10
Oklahoma City	21	44	.323	25½
Minnesota	20	45	.308	26½
Pacific Division				
x-Phoenix	46	18	.719	—
L.A. Clippers	43	22	.662	3½
L.A. Lakers	36	28	.563	10
Golden State	32	32	.500	14
Sacramento	27	37	.422	19
x-clinched playoff spot				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	17	12	.586	—
Toronto	14	12	.538	½
New York	14	14	.500	2½
Tampa Bay	14	15	.483	3
Baltimore	13	15	.464	3½
Central Division				
Kansas City	16	10	.615	—
Chicago	15	12	.556	1½
Cleveland	13	13	.500	3
Minnesota	10	16	.385	6
Detroit	8	21	.276	9½
West Division				
Oakland	17	12	.586	—
Seattle	16	13	.552	1
Houston	15	13	.536	1½
Los Angeles	13	13	.500	2½
Texas	13	16	.448	4
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Washington	12	12	.500	—
New York	11	11	.500	—
Philadelphia	13	15	.464	1
Atlanta	12	16	.429	2
Miami	11	16	.407	2½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	17	11	.607	—
St. Louis	16	12	.571	1
Cincinnati	13	14	.481	3½
Pittsburgh	12	15	.444	4½
Chicago	12	16	.429	5
West Division				
San Francisco	17	11	.607	—
Los Angeles	17	12	.586	½
San Diego	16	13	.552	1½
Arizona	15	13	.536	2
Colorado	10	18	.357	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lee elected NMIBF president



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers and members of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation pose for a photo after their meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Also on the NMIBF board, but not in the photo is member Keith Nabors of Tinian.

during its meeting last Thursday, has identified its priorities for this season, including restructuring the federation, building relationships with all basketball clubs and teams and other stakeholders in the sport, and resuming competitions safely and the national team program with the Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands just around the corner.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us, as we look into boosting our interscholastic, grassroots, and national team programs. We would deeply appreciate every support we could get from our basketball community to move things forward. In the coming months, we will be engaging

teams/clubs, referees, sponsors, and other stakeholders in a series of dialogues to collaborate our efforts in building up one of the most popular sports in the CNMI," Lee said.

Lee added that on behalf of the NMIBF board, he would like to acknowledge the previous leadership of the Northern Marianas Basketball Federation, led by Lawrence Camacho. The previous board managed to run programs despite having limited resources and facing challenges brought by two super typhoons and the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, the Northern Marianas Sports Association congratulated the members and officers of the NMIBF board looks forward to working with the group in the development of the sport in the islands.

"We are excited for the many possibilities that the new NMIBF board will explore and develop for our basketball community. Basketball has a huge following in the CNMI. In every village you would see a lot of people playing, while leagues and tour-

naments are held year-round, both outdoor and indoor. With that said, NMSA believes CNMI basketball has a strong potential to keep up with its counterparts in the region, create stronger grassroots and interscholastic programs, and provide more opportunities to players as well as coaches and referees. Congratulations to the new board and NMSA will definitely rally behind NMIBF's efforts in bringing out the full potential of CNMI basketball," said NMSA president Jerry Tan.

'SOUTH'

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tion was tough but they were able to prevail.

"By the Grace of God, we were able to get this win, it wasn't easy, it was definitely tough. The competition wasn't bad, it was good, looking forward to the next one. I hope more basketball

players come out and give a good challenge and they're going to have to go through us because we're the champs and we'll bring it next time too," he said.

The teacher said he credits the win to his great teammates.

"I feel great, I got great teammates. Basketball is a team sport and you can't do it without your teammates, it's

not an individual sport. In order to win, you have to be able to work together and that's what we were able to accomplish tonight and it was fun," he said.

McWilliams said that although it was his first time to play with his team on the first night of the competition, they came together as a team and were able to come out victori-

ous.

"I'm not going to lie, we never practiced together. The first time we played together was last night and that's what it means to be a team, to sit down and talk to each other," McWilliams added.

A total of 20 teams took part in the inaugural Battle of the NORF. Aside from the open division, the tournament also

NMC'S

From Page 20

ment with 3 points. Rounding off the Top 10 was Ban Shen (MHS), who finished the tournament with 2 points.

Wang had the white pieces in his final round match against Nam, with both players at that point securely within the Top 4, but also in contention for the top spot. If Wang won, he would have been the tournament's sole leader. If Nam won, the first place spot would have still been up for grabs, and a Round 6 of play would have been needed.

The tournament's deciding match began with a principled Queen's Pawn Opening, 1.d5 2.e3 and the middlegame featured solid play from both players, but as time pressure began to set in Wang entered into an endgame with a two-pawn advantage and a more advantageous position. Checkmate followed soon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

International Chess Club president Joseph Zhang, bottom first from left, poses with the club's executive board and members at the Interscholastic Chess Tournament held at the MHS cafeteria last Saturday.

after, and Wang ended the tournament a half-point ahead of the second-placer, a high enough point gap for a round 6 to not be needed.

All players at the tournament received a certificate and the Top 10 players each received small trophies and Joeten gift cards. The Top 3 received bronze, silver, and gold med-

als, and the tournament champion received a gift certificate from Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"It was pretty fun. I was a bit nervous, but it all went smoothly. I'm glad to see people interested in this and I'm glad to see people involved in chess," said International Chess Club president and MHS senior Joseph

Zhang. He thanked Barney's Pizza for providing food and drinks at the tournament, Joeten for providing gift cards and two chess sets, J's Restaurant for a cash donation to cover hosting and material costs, and everyone that came out for making his dream of holding a chess tournament on island come true.



Antetokounmpo
scores 49 points
as Bucks
beat Nets

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Lee elected NMIBF president

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20 TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'South' conquers NORF 3-on-3



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Game, which consisted of players predominantly from the southern part of the CNMI, dominated the inaugural Battle of the NORF 3-on-3 basketball tournament that concluded last Sunday at the As Matuis basketball court.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Game, which consisted of players predominantly from the southern part of the CNMI, dominated the open division of the inaugural Battle of the NORF 3-on-3 basketball tournament that concluded last Sunday at the As Matuis basketball court.



The Game, which included Richard McWilliams, Clint Albert, Dean Blake, Mac Mintac, and Elbin Kim, outplayed Jungle Roos with a 7-5 victory, taking the event's inaugural 3-on-3, single-elimination basketball tournament last Sunday evening.

ment last Sunday evening.

According to McWilliams, a Seventh Day Adventist teacher from San Diego, they came out to represent the south and they successfully did just that.

"We're from the southside for sure. Coach just brought

this up like, "let's bring the southside up and let's see what we can do" and we were able to come out with the win tonight," he said.

When asked about the competition, he said the competi-

See 'SOUTH' on Page 19

NMC's Wang tops chess tourney

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College's Zihan Wang is the winner of the 1st Interscholastic Chess Tournament hosted by the International Chess Club and held last Saturday at the Marianas High School cafeteria.

The blitz chess tournament had over 20 competitors from Marianas High School, Saipan International School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and Northern Marianas College. Almost all of the tournament's 44 games were decisive—only two games ended in a draw.



Wang ended the tournament as its sole leader with a perfect score of 5 points

after five rounds, and Frederic Guintu (SIS) was second with 4.5 points.

Tied for third, Mark

Nam (SIS) and Seung Woo

"Raffy" Lee (MCS) agreed

to a playoff—Nam was the

victor and is the tourna-

ment's third-placer with 4.5

points. With 4 points, Lee

was fourth. There was a five-

way tie for fifth, with Dexter

Marzo (MHS), Yun Woo

Nam (SIS), Isaiah Sablan

(SSHS), Christian Castro

(NMC), and Towa Irinaka

(MHS) all ending the tourna-

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Rayphand lands first in multiple qualifiers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Saipan International School's Jude Rayphand managed a spot in the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship this weekend after placing first in multiple qualifiers in the 9U boys division.

Rayphand recorded the fastest times for the 100m and the 200m. In the 100m, he submitted a time of 16:53 and in the 200m, he came in at 37:06.

For the 9U boys 100m championships, Rayphand will go up against fellow Gecko Quido Jambor, Koblerville Elementary School's



Tatum Jones, Prince Romolor, Ashton Manalo, and Jiro Quindoza of William S. Reyes.

In the 200m championships, Rayphand's competitors will be Jambor and KES' Jeffrey Pangelinan, Jayton DelaCruz, Jones, and Romolor.

Also prevailing in other qualifiers were Pangelinan and

Jones of KES, WSR's Landin Reyes and Damian Sablan, Agape Christian School's Danny Cheng, and Jambor.

Pangelinan recorded the fastest time overall in the 60m with a time of 10:07. He will go head-to-head with fellow

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MARK RABAGO

Saipan International School's Jude Rayphand, far left, managed a spot in the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship this weekend after placing first in multiple qualifiers in the 9U boys division.



JOSHUA SANTOS

Northern Marianas College's Zihan Wang and Saipan International School's Mark Nam shake hands before their final round match at the Interscholastic Chess Tournament held at the MHS cafeteria last Saturday.